

Mrs Thatcher pleads for halt to May 14 'folly'

Next week's day of action will not shift the Government from its policies, the Prime Minister said in Perth last night. She urged the TUC to call off "this job-destroying folly". Rail union leaders indicated that they would not tell members to work normally but some London and regional bus services are likely to run.

Government policies will not be changed

From Michael Hatfield
Political Reporter
Perth

Trade union leaders were told firmly by the Prime Minister last night that the day of action on Wednesday would not shift the Government from its policies.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, reviewing her first year in office, told the Scottish Conservative conference at Perth that public dislocation designed to apply political pressure was not only anti-social but futile.

"It will not change Government policies and has nothing to do with the reality of bargaining as Mrs Thatcher said, and the TUC will recognize before perpetrating the job-destroying folly planned for May 14," she said. "Only Britain's competitors would win and Britain would be the loser."

The Prime Minister, underpinning the economic strategy which brought her to office, gave warnings to the trade unions and offered some comfort to businessmen who have been hard hit by high interest rates.

Unions were told that governments could not absorb people from their responsibilities if society was to remain free. Her government had put back the responsibility for pay bargaining where it belonged, with management and unions who knew the conditions in their factories and the market for their products.

Mrs Thatcher said: "Every so-called 'incomes policy' collapses as the last one did, and the one before that and again before that. And when it does the floodgates burst."

Sadly it took time for attitudes to change and meanwhile great damage could be done. The necessary adaptation was made far more difficult by the extent to which the structures of trade unions had grown apart from the workers they claimed to represent.

Turning to criticisms about the low level of investment in the private sector, Mrs Thatcher said that the tide of excess credit which had threatened to swamp the Government when it first took office was on the ebb. "Provided this trend continues I hope it will not be too long before we can look forward to low interest rates without any relaxation of our stand against inflation," she said.

That was the way the Government must go. It was tempting to follow the soft advice of those who would have the Government slash the exchange rate and start over again. But the consequences of that would be that money would lose its value with ever-accelerating rapidity and all hope of a long-term solution to Britain's problems would be lost.

Our decision, instead, to keep a tight rein on money and on public spending means that the climate for productive investment at home, creating the job opportunities of the 1980s and the 1990s will steadily improve," Mrs Thatcher said.

Reviewing the Government's foreign policy, Mrs Thatcher said there could be no question of resting on our laurels. The re-establishment of Britain's standing in the world was more than an end in itself.

"We must never cease to demonstrate our confidence in our institutions," she said. "We must proclaim the superiority of our way of life."

She accused the Soviet Union of seeking to subjugate the independent people of Afghanistan by brute force. "The massacre of schoolchildren demonstrating against the occupation of their country is but the latest in a catalogue of barbarities," she said. "We must continue to demonstrate to the Soviet Union that they have earned the contempt and anger of the world."

Tory MPs appeal, page 2

Unions spurn BR plea to stop May 14 action

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

Members of the two main rail unions indicated last night that they will not tell their men to work normally on May 14, the TUC day of action, but some bus services are likely to run in London and the provinces.

In a day of fluctuating fortunes for the planned protest, it was disclosed that the big postal unions are not calling their members out. But the National Society of Operative Printers, Graphical and Media Personnel (Natsop) told its members that it would not obey a High Court order forbidding the organization of industrial action in Fleet Street.

The initiative for a normal train service came from Sir Peter Parker, chairman of British Rail, who asked the rail unions to reconsider their strike call and to issue a circular encouraging railwaymen to work as usual.

In a swift response to the initiative, Mr Raymond Buckton, general secretary of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (Aslef), told British Rail that the letter had simply been "noted", trade union parlance for not taking any action.

Most train drivers belong to Aslef, and if its traditionally

militant members do not turn up for work it would be practically impossible to run a service. The much larger National Union of Railwaymen will not consider the letter until Monday when Mr Sidney Weighell, its general secretary, returns after illness.

However, a senior official said last night that a special executive meeting would have to be called to reverse the decision to call on railwaymen not to work on May 14.

He thought that pockets of resistance to the stoppage, denounced as political by Mr Justice Griffiths in the High Court three days ago, could be removed "once members have had the seriousness of the situation explained to them. We are in the front line of an industry being run down like steel, and it is up to us to make our views known by way of the day of action."

Postal and telephone services are likely to be normal after decisions by the Union of Post Office Workers (UPW) and the Post Office Engineering Union not to send out instructions on industrial action.

Postal workers are being urged to attend TUC protest rallies at lunchtime and in their

Continued on page 2, col 5

Sensible work laws sought by Mr Prior

Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, said yesterday that three recent governments had been defeated by the trade unions, and he was determined that it was not going to happen this time.

Mr Prior told the Scottish Conservative conference in Perth that unless the Government were able to pass "sensible, reasonable and fair" legislation that could be enforced it could mean the end of Parliamentary democracy.

Mr Prior said that he had told the Scottish TUC recently that three governments, two Labour and one Conservative, had now been defeated by the unions and had been told by one trade unionist that they were "going to make it a draw".

He added: "I am determined that it should not be a 'draw'. I am not only determined because I am a Conservative, but because I know that unless we can pass through Parliament sensible, reasonable and fair legislation that can be enforced, and unless we can get that power back into Parliament where it belongs, that is the end of Parliamentary democracy as we know it."

Mr Prior said that passing legislation was comparatively easy, especially with a parliamentary majority, but it was getting that legislation to work that really counted.

"Why the hell do we just think legislation imposed by Parliament is necessarily going to put things right on the shop floor, because it will not."

"We have to do more than that. We have to show by our attitudes and by the way we conduct ourselves and by our understanding that there is a better way of improving industrial relations."



Churchmen meet: The Pope and the Archbishop of Canterbury met the Most Rev Robert Runcie, today met for the first time while on separate African tours and said they had established "a personal friendship and trust".

The 45-minute meeting in the Nunciature this morning was described in an official joint statement as "a joyful and moving occasion".

The Pope later flew to Kumasi in central Ghana for talks with Ghana's Roman Catholic bishops and a meeting with King Opoku Ware II of Ashanti. The Archbishop was due to leave tonight for Zaire for the consecration of the new Anglican Bishop of Bukavu.

The meeting was only the fourth between Catholic and Anglican leaders since the break with Rome four centuries ago.

Libya demands reparations for 1939-45 war

Tripoli, May 9.—Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, said today that he is seriously considering halting oil supplies to Britain and the United States, the Libyan news agency reported.

Libya would also claim from Britain, West Germany and Italy thousands of millions of dollars in compensation to repair damage caused during the North African campaigns of the Second World War.

The fighting had "transformed Libya into a theatre of international terrorism" to serve the interests of countries which did not concern Libya in any way, Colonel Gaddafi said.

He threatened that if Libya did not receive damages through negotiations it would seize by force sufficient to compensate it.

Libyan relations with the United States and Britain have been under strain since Colonel Gaddafi's threat to liquidate all Libyans living abroad who are hostile to his regime.

Washington has ordered the expulsion of four Libyan diplomats accused of ordering Libyan students to carry out the colonel's threats, but the four have refused to emerge

from the Libyan Embassy which has diplomatic immunity. They claim that they are not diplomats but students, and cannot be expelled without a court hearing.

The United States has warned the Libyans that their mission will be closed if the four are not handed over to the authorities. It has also withdrawn all its staff from its embassy in Tripoli, sacked three months ago by demonstrators alleged by Washington to be acting under Colonel Gaddafi's orders.

Two prominent Libyan opponents of the Gaddafi regime were killed in London streets last month. The arrested suspects are also Libyans.

It was reported today that Britain has suspended plans to deport some Libyan diplomats or close the Libyan Embassy in London pending the outcome of a message to the colonel asking for a solemn undertaking that attacks on Libyan exiles would cease immediately.

Agence France-Press: One Business News Staff writes: The threat of withdrawal of Libyan assets from London is not being taken too seriously in the City. If they were withdrawn they would probably flow

Continued on page 4, col 5

Cruelty claim by control unit prisoner rejected but rules were breached

By Frances Gibb

The detention of a prisoner for six months in a control unit, a system set up by the Home Office in 1974 to deal with prison "troublemakers", was legally justified, Mr Justice Tudor Evans ruled in the High Court yesterday.

In a five-hour judgment, he rejected a claim by a prisoner, Mr Michael Williams, aged 39, that the unit was cruel, unusual, contrary to the principles of natural justice or illegal.

But he acknowledged that the Home Office, as responsible for the prison authorities, had breached prison rules in not reviewing Mr Williams's case each month that he was in the unit.

But that was not for the courts to adjudicate. Prisoners had other remedies, such as appeals to the prison governor. "The fact that the control unit failed to follow the procedural steps does not mean it acted illegally," he said.

Mr Justice Evans said he could not accept that the unit, which involved a two-stage regime, each of three months with the first part being almost total solitary confinement, was devised as a punishment for prisoners. Nor was it any worse or different from segregation units in the rest of the prison system, he said.

He could not accept that the unit had led to Mr Williams becoming "frightened, depressed and disoriented". He did not find the plaintiff a convincing witness, and I am not satisfied that his isolation, lack of human contact, attitude of

prison staff or the threat of reversion (to the start of the regime) had the slightest effect on his mental or nervous health."

Prison officers had said Mr Williams was cheerful in the unit. His sister, however, said in evidence that she had been shocked by the change in him.

Backed by the National Council for Civil Liberties (NCC), Mr Williams, who is on parole, was suing the Home Office for false imprisonment and claiming exemplary damages. He also sought a declaration that the Home Office circular setting up the control unit was unlawful.

Mr Justice Evans refused to award damages. Each side will pay its own costs, estimated at £60,000 to £70,000, which in both cases means the taxpayer, Mr Williams was legally aided.

Mr Williams was one of only three prisoners to go through the control unit, set up at Wakefield Prison in 1974 and disbanded the next year.

Miss Patricia Banks of the NCC said the decision was disappointing. In no other Western country had a regime like the control unit been upheld by the courts. The NCC was considering an appeal.

After the judgment, Mr Philip Vallance, junior counsel for the Home Office, said legal action was being considered against the NCC for allowing Home Office documents, which had been made available for the purposes of the trial, to be published in a national newspaper.

Five-year controversy, page 2

Mr Carter takes firm stand on need to check Soviet challenge

From David Cross
Washington, May 9

President Carter today warned the Soviet Union that the United States and other Western nations will continue to impose economic and political sanctions until Moscow withdraws its armed forces and restores independence to Afghanistan.

In what was seen here as a preparatory speech for next week's meeting in Vienna between Mr Edmund Muskie, the new Secretary of State, and Mr Andrei Gromyko, his Soviet counterpart, Mr Carter said that a failure to respond convincingly to Moscow's "con- would only invite its repetition."

Beyond the violence done to Afghanistan's independence and people, Mr Carter went on, "the Red Army troops consolidating their hold there are also taking positions from which Soviet imperialism could be extended more deeply and more dangerously in the politics of this vital area."

Confronting all the world with the high cost in blood and respectability which Moscow is now paying, could turn Afghanistan from a roadblock against aggression into a launching pad for further incursions.

Such a development would threaten not only Pakistan and Iran, "Soviet aggression in Afghanistan unless checked, confronts all the world with the most serious long-term strategic challenge since the cold war began. To undertake the magnitude of that challenge would constitute an historic error, an error which probably historic consequences would follow."

America's position was clear. "It is consistent, as well, with the interests of our allies, whose wellbeing—along with our own—is ultimately tied to the security and independence of this strategically vital region. We must therefore work together in meeting the challenge we face in common."

Mr Carter was addressing the World Affairs Council of Philadelphia during his first public appearance outside Washington since November when the 53 Americans were taken hostage before travelling to Pennsylvania, he said, tribute to the

eight Americans who died in the Iranian desert trying to rescue the hostages last month. The memorial service for the servicemen was held in the amphitheatre of the Arlington Cemetery across the Potomac river from Washington.

In his Philadelphia speech which charted the future course of American foreign policy, Mr Carter also said that détente with the Soviet Union remained his goal. While there could be no business as usual in the face of aggression, relations between Washington and Moscow could be improved "if the Soviets alter their conduct."

He warned the Russians, however, that they would not succeed "in their efforts to divide the alliance or to pull us into a false belief that some how Europe can be an island of détente while aggression is carried out elsewhere."

Turning to America's relations with Iran, Mr Carter said his Administration would "continue to make every effort, using peaceful means if possible, and through collective action with our allies," to obtain the release of the hostages. "We will remind the Iranian leaders that the integrity and independence of their country can only suffer from policies of isolation and international disintegration."

"We have no permanent quarrel with the Iranian people. We wish to fashion a relationship of détente with Iran, since this ideal action has been pursued by both sides."

Mr Carter outlined the main objectives of his foreign policy: to enhance not only economic but also political solidarity among the industrial democracies; to establish a new, constructive relationship with the Third World; to persevere in efforts to bring peace to the Middle East and other troubled places; to defend America's strategic interests, especially those now threatened in southwest Asia; to advance arms control, especially through agreed strategic arms limitations with the Soviet Union, and to maintain a firm and balanced relationship with the Soviet Union.

Russians in two-week battle south of Kabul

Delhi, May 9.—Heavy fighting between Soviet troops and Afghan guerrillas has been going on for the past 12 days in the Chagay area south of Kabul, according to travellers arriving here today from Afghanistan.

An Indian businessman said the fighting was continuing and involved about 900 Soviet tanks and armoured personnel carriers.

"According to reliable information the fighting is heavy and mainly involves Soviet forces and rebels. The Afghan troops hardly come into the picture," he said.

The businessman said more than 100 people, including many students, were killed in anti-Communist demonstrations in Kabul in two weeks until Sunday. Kabul was now comparatively quiet but tense.

The businessman said that students were staying away from classes and at Kabul University. They had been prevented by the authorities from entering the campus.

"Parents have been called to the Interior Ministry to stand guarantee for their children that they will not demonstrate," he said. There had been no demonstrations since Sunday.

The demonstrations were the worst in Kabul since February when hundreds were killed in clashes with security forces.

The businessman said he had no information on casualties in the Ghazni area. But he said people who had come to Kabul from there spoke of fighting day and night involving much Soviet firepower, including helicopter gunships.—Reuter.

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Eight groups vie for breakfast television rights

Eight groups had applied for the franchise to broadcast breakfast-time television when the deadline for applications arrived, and all but two of the independent television area franchises were being contested by new consortia. In another development ATV Network ran into trouble with plans to build a studio near Nottingham, page 2

Teachers' pay claim goes to arbitration

The pay claim for 470,000 teachers in England and Wales is to go to arbitration after the breakdown of talks in the Burnham negotiating committee. Teachers seek 20 per cent but the employers have offered 13 per cent. Page 2

Embassy bodies release

The inquest on five men described as terrorists and two hostages who were killed in the siege at the Iranian Embassy opened in London and was adjourned until criminal proceedings have ended. The coroner said that the bodies might be released today. Page 3

Swedish offer expected

A new wage offer is about to be made by Sweden's government mediators in an effort to end the disruption. Page 3

Print talks: Hopes rise for settlement tomorrow. Page 3

Peach inquest: Pathologist says that blow from police radio could have caused teacher's death in Southall riot. Page 3

Smoking campaign: Cigarette company temporarily shelves plan to promote its product in student unions. Page 3

Falerno: Cash, jewelry, travellers' cheques and passports were seized by Sicilian bandits from a bus of British and French tourists. Page 3

Islamabad: Defying arrest, Air Marshal Asghar Khan presses on with his campaign to oust President Zia ul-Haq. Page 4

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Letters: On life under the Communists, from Mr George Theodor and others; call for compromise on Burnham's EP stock, from Mr John Rankin, QC, and others.
Leading articles: Economic strategy; the Pope and the Archbishop.
Features: pages 14
Norman Fox on the FA cup final; letter from Karnataka by Richard Drury; Michael Rancourt on Britain's War Requiem (BBC 2); Joan Bakewell on For Meddie with Love (ATV).
Sport, pages 17 and 18
Football: FA and Scottish FA Cup finals; previews; Leeds pay £400,000 for Sabella.
Stock market: Oils featured in a dull end to the account which had gains mostly unchanged. The FT Index closed 9.2 down at 436.5.

News cancelled after action by ITN technicians

By Kenneth Gosling

Independent Television News technicians who refused to edit a report of the Prime Minister's speech in Perth, Scotland, yesterday, caused the cancellation of ITN's early evening news bulletin.

The technicians, who belong to the Association of Cinematograph, Television and Allied Technicians, were attending a union meeting when the programme should have been transmitted.

ITN said: "We could not have filmed the Prime Minister's speech in time for News at Ten so we asked Gramplan to edit from Electronic News Gathering (ENG) coverage for us. Gramplan has an agreement with the union to use ENG." Gramplan's ENG material had been taken in this form on at least three previous occasions with no union action, ITN added.

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HOME NEWS

Firm defers cigarette deal with students

By Annabel Ferriman
Health Services Correspondent

Philip Morris, the manufacturer of Marlboro and Chesterfield cigarettes, has temporarily shelved its plan to promote the Chesterfield brand in student unions pending discussions with the Department of Health and Social Security.

The company was invited to meet DHSS officials after its deal with the National Union of Students (NUS) was disclosed in *The Times* last week. In exchange for Philip Morris providing posters for film societies, the NUS agreed to allow the company to advertise its product on union premises.

The officials want to discuss the deal in the light of the voluntary agreement between the Government and the tobacco industry that no promotions should be aimed at young people.

The company was strongly criticized in the Commons yesterday by five MPs during a debate on smoking and health, both for its agreement with the NUS and for its Club Marlboro promotion, which invites young people to join a cigarette club offering discounts on tapes, records and discotheques.

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services, said in the debate that both promotions were not subject to the code of the Advertising Standards Authority.

But in my judgment they are blatantly out of accord with the whole spirit of the agreement. My officials have been in touch with the firm and we hope they will totally abandon these two promotions.

The company was criticized by Mr Peter Hain, Conservative MP for Welwyn Hatfield, Mr David Ennals, former Labour Secretary of State for Social Services, Mr John Seaver, Labour MP for Birmingham, Ladywood, Mrs Sheila Faith, Conservative MP for Belper, and Mr Samuel Silkin, Labour MP for Southwark and Dulwich. Our Parliamentary Correspondent writes: Mr Jenkin announced a survey to study the social pressures that encourage people to start and to continue smoking. Winding up the debate on smoking, he said that the results were expected near the end of 1981.

Parliamentary report, page 7

Composer visits China

Alexander Goehr, the composer, who is Professor of Music at Cambridge, has been invited by the Academies of Music in China to spend six weeks lecturing in China.

Police need to know where Iranian Embassy gunmen planned their operation and who helped them

Questions still remain after siege

By Stewart Tandler
Crime Reporter

At Princes Gate returns to a semblance of normality after the Iranian Embassy siege, many questions still remain. Not the least is the exact identity of the gunmen and where they came from.

Five days after the siege was lifted, detectives from Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist squad still had little more than vague first names for three of the dead men. At the same time they still do not know positively where the gunmen made their preparations for the siege.

It is thought that they must have come into Britain some weeks before they rushed the embassy. Appeals to hotels and lodging houses and proprietors have yet to produce any information that can identify the base they used.

Given that only one man spoke English, it is possible that they had help in surviving under cover in London.

Certainly someone must have helped them to set up their operation and that person may well have misled them into thinking that the British would get a flight from Britain to a friendly country.

Freed hostages report that the gunmen were utterly convinced that they would get their aircraft. The police, monitoring



Tuning in: Amateur radio enthusiasts scrutinizing the latest in Japanese sets at a two-day equipment exhibition organized by the Radio Society of Great Britain, which opened in the Alexandra Palace, London, yesterday. There are about 30,000 licensed radio "hams" in Britain.

Police radio 'could have killed Blair Peach'

By Nicholas Timmins

The blow that fatally injured Blair Peach could have been struck by a police radio in its earlier case, the inquest into Mr Peach's death was told yesterday.

The possibility was put forward by Professor David Bowen, Professor of Forensic Medicine at Charing Cross Hospital, who told the jury at Hamersmith that Mr Peach, a teacher, aged 33, of Lavender Grove, Hackney, London, had an unusually thin skull. He died of a massive head injury received during the demonstration against the National Front at Southall in April last year.

Professor Bowen said that although the skull was abnormally thin, "I am not suggesting that the fracture would not have occurred if the skull was normally thick. The fracture would not have been so extensive. Another person might just have survived."

As Professor Bowen, who performed the first post-mortem examination on Mr Peach, was giving his evidence, Dr John Burton, the coroner, intervened to say that there were two extreme theories about Mr

Peach's death, both of which were equally unacceptable to him.

There is the police murder theory—that some policeman has a blackjack with him and is obviously unable to produce it when there are people watching. Then suddenly sees the opportunity, produces it, and one blow does it. As far as we know, no other person has an injury similar to Blair Peach.

"The other extreme, which I must say is equally unacceptable to me, is that there is some political fanatic who says 'here is the perfect demonstration to have a martyr such as at Red Lion Square' and he coshes Blair Peach, while Blair Peach is not running."

Both theories had drawbacks. "What we have been looking for, for a year now, is some less sensational explanation which does not have the drawbacks," he added.

Professor Bowen confirmed that a single blow caused the injury and that there were no other marks or grazes, or evidence that Mr Peach was held or gripped in any way.

The instrument that caused the injury must have been

broad, with a smooth surface, he said. He had examined truncheons and other weapons taken from the lockers of the Special Patrol Group, and none of those could have led to the injury.

He had also examined a radio set in its case, seven inches by just under three by one-and-a-half, weighing more than 500 grams. Of all the things he saw, this one is the most likely instrument to cause the fatal injury.

He was shown a blackjack, bought from the United States and produced by Mr Stephen Sedley, for the Peach family. He agreed it could cause the injury, although he was less in favour of it than other broader, possibly longer, instruments.

"I would say the radio was more likely, but I certainly would not exclude this," he added.

He agreed with Dr Burton that because he ruled out the other weapons found, and could not rule out the radio, that did not prove it was the radio.

He also agreed with Mr Richard Harvey, for the Anti-Nazi League, that there was no question of someone just running into the radio. "I would

have to be hand-held, deliberately delivered," he said. At one point when he said it would have to be in motion, Dr Burton said: "We come back to the fairly unlikely story that it would have to be swung."

The jury was taken from the courtroom to be shown pieces of Mr Peach's skull, together with five other skulls from a pathological museum after Professor Bowen told them that Mr Peach's skull was only one-sixteenth of an inch thick, half the normal thickness, at the main site of the fracture.

"More than that, the thinnest part of the skull was much less than that. I could only measure it as being one millimetre."

On the absence of marks from a fall, Professor Bowen said that if someone swung slowly down in a truly vertical position he did not think such injuries need be expected.

The question of Mr Peach remaining conscious for a period after the massive injury, he said, he would expect transitory unconsciousness, but after that a person could recover and become mobile for a time.

The hearing continues on Monday.

Three more charged by Countryman

By Our Crime Reporter

Three more men have been charged by officers from the Operation Countryman team, which is investigating allegations of corruption involving London police. The three are accused of incidents related to the investigation.

Last month two men appeared at Newham West Magistrates' court, east London, on similar charges after being arrested by Operation Countryman officers. None of the five men charged has been named in the police report.

The latest charges, brought on Thursday at Guildford police station, are against Raymond Morgan, aged 26, and Edward Watch, aged 24, both lorry drivers; and Stanley Hall, aged 43, an engineer. No addresses have been released.

They are to appear at Newham West Magistrates' court in July. Eight people, including four police officers, have been charged as the result of Countryman investigations.

Passenger train arriving is first for 136 years

From John Chatterton
Manchester

As a certain-raiser to this year's celebrations of the beginning 150 years ago of Britain's passenger railway system, a party of journalists and other invited guests made history yesterday by being aboard the first passenger train for 136 years to draw up at the platform of Liverpool Road station, Manchester.

The station opened in 1844. Railway historians, certainly those who live in the north of England, claim that Liverpool Road was the first passenger station in the true sense of the word anywhere in the world. After refurbishment by volunteers and with help from British Rail it will play a prominent part in the anniversary celebrations, which go on for most of the summer between Liverpool and Manchester.

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Bombs bring city centre to standstill

From Christopher Thomas
Belfast

The centre of Belfast was brought to a standstill after three bombs exploded near the City Hall yesterday. Two were planted by an IRA agent's shop and one was in a bus.

Two terrorists hijacked the bus in Falls Road, in west Belfast, and ordered the passengers off.

The driver was ordered to go into the City Centre, where two of the bombs were planted. The third bomb was left on the bus, which shortly afterwards was ablaze.

Scrapyard shooting: Two workmen were shot and wounded in a north Belfast scrapyard yesterday. The Press Association reports.

Three men drew up in a stolen saloon car, strolled into the scrapyard and ordered three workers inside against the wall. One of the gunmen then shot two of the workmen.

WEST EUROPE

Bandits rob tourist coach in Sicily

Palermo, May 9.—Five masked bandits held up and robbed 50 British and French tourists near Palermo today after an accomplice stopped their tour bus by faking a road accident in wooded hills.

The tourists, not identified by police, were robbed of cash, jewels, documents and travellers' cheques worth, according to estimates, several thousand pounds.

It was the second time within three days that foreign tourists in Sicily have been held up and robbed. On Wednesday 40 French visitors, who had just arrived by air from Paris, were held up while travelling by bus to their hotel.

In today's incident the bus carrying the tourists, which was travelling to a valley of ancient Greek temples on the coast near Agrigento, was forced to stop when a car bumped against it at a curve in the road and halted in front of it, pretending there had been an accident.

As the Italian driver approached the car, five bandits driving in a car behind stopped and levelled pistols and rifles at him and then forced the tourists to hand over their belongings.

Soon after the hold-up the tourists' driver and a guide travelled back to the tourist centre of Terrasini and reported the robbery to police. The hold-ups might discourage tourists from coming to Sicily, the authorities said. In the first three months of this year, 281,537 tourists visited the island, 15 per cent more than a year earlier.—AP.

Sweden awaits new wage offer to end industrial disruption

From Roger Choate
Stockholm, May 9

Government mediators were reported today on the verge of making a new wage offer, in efforts to end Sweden's labour stoppages which have brought the nation to a standstill.

Nearly a million workers have been idle since last Friday, when Sweden's trade union federation rejected a mediation offer of an overall 2.3 per cent wages rise. It argued that this would mean a lowering of real income because of inflation.

The employers' federation, which accepted the offer, then locked out 750,000 workers. Unions retaliated by calling out more than 100,000 employees in the private sector.

Today transport workers halted most deliveries of oil and petrol. Garages were rationing supplies to motorists as Sweden continued to hoard petrol in containers. The cooperative movement was exempted from the blockade. It has filling stations and essential services, such as buses.

Sources predicted that a better wage offer would be made tonight to labour and management negotiators. If accepted, it could end the stoppages which have hit production in most private industries.

The Government remained officially aloof from the crisis, maintaining that labour and management claims must find a middle ground. However, Mr Gösta Bohman, the Economics Minister, today accused the unions of trying to use the negotiations on behalf of the

opposition Social Democratic Party.

Mr Bohman was particularly directing his remarks to public sector unions, involved in parallel negotiations. So far the public sector has been relatively calm, except for selective actions and overtime bans affecting public transport, schools and social services in varying degrees. Closure of the Stockholm underground system two weeks ago resulted in traffic jams and a proliferation of bicycles.

Swedish newspapers today were drastically reduced in size, due to dwindling newsprint supplies. A strike of cable-ticians has meant curtailment of television programmes, and a strike will close most cinemas tomorrow. More restaurants were shutting their doors because of labour conflicts.

Swedes are marching in a rather orderly fashion towards catastrophe, said the Stockholm newspaper *Expressen*, in a leading article. "Like Lemmings, we are seeking out every thing in our power. Horrifying is what is called."

Deliveries of food from abroad, particularly fresh fruit, have been sharply reduced since Tuesday, when port workers walked out.

Sweden's only remaining sea link with the rest of West Europe was the ferry to Helsingør in Denmark, where long queues of lorries were reported. Domestic and international air flights were grounded nearly two weeks ago.

OECD countries agree to keep traffic noise down

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, May 9

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries ended a three-day meeting here today with a quiet agreement to reduce noise.

They agreed that motor vehicle noise would have to be cut substantially before the end of the century. To effect this they are to devise an international system of noise measurement and monitoring.

The conference was under the aegis of the OECD as the body most competent to take the steps necessary to ensure that the next century is quieter than this.

Another important reason is that most noise is emitted by internal combustion engines, of which OECD countries produce about 90 per cent of the world output.

Argument and even total disagreement had been expected on the measures necessary to limit noise from motor vehicles. Every decibel reduced adds 1 per cent to the cost of the vehicle. There was concern that

the industrialized countries would jib at adding yet more to production costs.

But the noise problem was so widely acknowledged that the conference was able to agree on a reduction of between five and 10 decibels, according to vehicle type, between now and 1990. Given the average 10-year life of a vehicle, this should mean the traffic will be quieter by the end of the century.

Effecting this and other measures were seen to be possible only if all countries co-ordinated their efforts. Therefore the conference made the important decision to adopt standardized noise measurement methods, so that every country will know what norms its manufacturers have to work to.

Although the decisions to act now rests with individual governments, the conference agreed that progress would have to be reviewed. Therefore another OECD conference will be held in about five years, when members will have to report on what progress has been made towards keeping things quiet.

Fire holds up bridge finals

From a Bridge Correspondent
Monte Carlo, May 9

The finals of the European Bridge pairs championships were interrupted last night when a fire broke out.

Some 600 players, officials and spectators were evacuated. This morning three-quarters of the area was fit for play. The finals will continue.

Since playing time cannot be extended the last session must be squeezed into the remaining time, with the effect that there will be more than 12 hours play today, beginning at 1 pm and continuing until after 2 am.

with a resumption of play at 11 am on Saturday.

Former world and European champions were among those who failed to qualify for the final of the open championships. France was by far the most successful of the 21 participants, with 16 pairs in the 56 open finalists, including four in the first place.

Sweden and Holland were next best, each with six. Britain's only qualifiers were Tony Forrester and Mike Walsh in a highly creditable twelfth place.

For Britain Helen Schapiro and Fiona Brickwood qualified in twentieth place.

Uncertain day for European unity

From Ian Murray
Paris, May 9

The cause of European unity took an uncertain step in an indecisive direction within the painted magnificence of the great amphitheatre of the Sorbonne today.

The occasion was the celebration by the European Movement of the thirtieth anniversary of the declaration by Robert Schuman which led to the establishment of the European Community. There was no shortage of illustrious speakers or of fine idealistic things to say. What was singularly lacking was anyone but the European faithful to hear it all.

A declaration was prepared in which the need was emphasized for "urgent steps" to be taken to provide the Community with the necessary machinery to develop a federal structure to overcome the challenges and dangers threatening it.

The challenges and dangers were self-evident from the congress. The press and cameras were all there to hear M. Raymond Barre, the French Prime Minister, make the closing address for the morning session.

Unfortunately M. Barre had an aircraft to catch, so his address was delivered early.

He laid heavy emphasis on the "essential" element which formed the "keystone" of Europe—the reconciliation between France and Germany.

This was what had motivated M. Robert Schuman, the Alsatian frontiersman, as M. Barre called him, and this alliance was the basis on which

peace in Europe would have to be built.

M. Barre had to leave before the speech prepared by Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, who was absent, was read out by Sir Michael Palliser, the head of the diplomatic service.

The French press and television left in force with their Prime Minister, clutching a statement that had been handed round saying that he was holding a special ministerial meeting on Wednesday to prepare France's next step should Britain refuse to agree an agricultural price rise by the end of the month.

Lord Carrington's speech laid the "vision" to see clearly in a dark age" which had inspired Robert Schuman, but then spoke about Britain's problems with the community.

Accused man 'identified bodies of terrorists'

The inquest into the deaths of five terrorists killed in the siege at the Iranian Embassy in London was opened at Westminster yesterday and at the request of the Director of Public Prosecutions adjourned until criminal proceedings finish.

Dr Paul Knapman, the coroner, said that the director was anxious that any evidence given at the inquest should not prejudice a fair trial.

Dr Iain West, a pathologist, said the five hostages and five men described as terrorists all died of bullet wounds.

One of the hostages was Mr Abbas Lavasani, aged 28, a bachelor, who was a secretary in the embassy press department. Dr West, who was present at the inquest, said he died from a gunshot wound to the head and chest.

The second hostage was Mr Ali Abar Samadzadeh, aged 31, a married man, who was a press department secretary. Dr West said he died of a traumatic rupture of the aorta caused by a firearm wound in the back.

Det Supt Kenneth Churchill-Coleman, of the anti-terrorist squad, said that Fawzi Najad, aged 23, had been charged

with the murder of both hostages.

Mr Churchill-Coleman said evidence of identification of the other five was given by Mr Najad. The first man, identified as Javem, alias Faisal, was found on the embassy's ground floor in the hallway near the front door. He had died from multiple firearm wounds.

The second, Salim Tawfiq, was found on the first floor at the front of the building in a secretary's office. He died from firearm wounds to the head and chest.

The third, Abbas, alias Samer, was found in a rear office. He died from firearm wounds to the chest and abdomen.

The fourth, Shai, was at the front of the second floor in the embassy telex room. He died from a firearm wound to the head.

The fifth, Makki, was also in the telex room. He died of firearm wounds to the neck and pelvis.

Single names refer in each case to the first name.

Dr Knapman refused a request by the Iranian consul-general and a solicitor, for the release of the bodies of the hostages. He said: "It may be that they will be released tomorrow... so that they may be taken out of England."

How the SAS recruits

So tough is the training to the Special Air Service Regiment that four soldiers have died on endurance tests in the past 15 months.

The minds and bodies of men who volunteer to join are strained to the outer limits of human endurance. Assassination, ambush and sabotage in war are their missions. Secrecy is their watchword.

Tomorrow *The Sunday Times* in an exclusive report describes how SAS men are selected and trained.

Six rebels of Clay Cross council, Derbyshire, were granted discharge from bankruptcy at Chesterfield County Court yesterday after Judge Brooke Willis said there was little chance of their paying back money they were surcharged for defying the Government.

Eleven councillors on the council refused to abide by the Conservative Housing Act, 1972, and raise council house rents. They were surcharged £53,000, disqualified from holding public office and in 1975 made bankrupt.

Six of them were given discharges yesterday, suspended for 12 months.

The only one who might possibly have been able to pay something, the judge said, was Mr David Percival, aged 40, a miner, but it would be unfair to make him pay and not the others.

The court was told that of the £53,000 owing, only about £400 had been paid by three of the 11 former councillors. The rest of the debt was recovered by a levy on rents and rates of all residents of Clay Cross.

May is Deutsche Grammophon month!



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In addition to Direction's regular discounts of 15-25%, this advertisement is a voucher which entitles you to a further 10% off any purchase from the Deutsche Grammophon, Archiv Accolade and Privilege catalogues.

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OVERSEAS

Shippers in scramble to beat deadline for sanctions on Iran

Tehran, May 9.—Supplies of raw materials and consumer goods are pouring into Iran's southern ports faster than customs officials can handle them to beat the May 17 deadline set by the European Community for sanctions against Iran.

Shipping sources said most of the supplies were consumer goods from West Europe, but added that large amounts of steel from Japan were arriving at the Gulf port of Bandar Khomeini.

"There is a rush of cargo ahead of May 17. After that, we expect a lull but things will pick up again despite the sanctions because supplies will find ways round the regulations," an official at one shipping company said.

He said that American consumer goods were continuing to arrive in Iran through third countries despite President Carter's trade embargo on Iran announced last month.

The EEC and Japan have said they will introduce economic sanctions against Tehran on May 17 unless the authorities take some significant step before then towards releasing the American hostages.

Other trade sources said large shipments of popular brands of American cigarettes were arriving in the ports of Khorramshahr and Bandar Abbas from Gulf countries.

The shipping sources said there was a vast stockpile of capital goods, some consumer goods and medicines in Bandar Khomeini because of a work-around by Iranian customs officials involved in political disputes with the Government.

Similar reports have been confirmed by government sources referring to Iran's northern border posts with the Soviet Union and a government team was sent to the area two weeks ago to help ease the bottleneck.

European shipping firms unaffected by the EEC sanctions said that the pattern of Iranian imports had shifted since last year's revolution from mainly capital goods to mainly foodstuffs and consumer goods.

Overall volume had dropped dramatically. The company said that, despite widespread shortages of cooking oil in most areas of northern Iran, the government trading company was importing between 50,000 and 100,000 tonnes of vegetable oil per month, mainly from Brazil.

The sources said there was little waiting time at Iranian ports at the moment, in contrast to the average 100 days which it took to unload container ships at the height of Iran's import boom in 1976 and 1977. The main bottleneck was with customs clearance, while road haulage capacity was more than adequate.

Among the firms said to be stockpiling before the sanctions is Iran National, the country's state-owned car producer, which is expecting five months' supply of car kits from Talbot UK, a subsidiary of the French Peugeot-Citroën SA for the Paykan, Iran's most popular saloon.

Talbot officials in Iran confirmed that the supplies were on their way and said they believed other car producers were also rushing to beat the deadline.—Reuters.

Peshawar police station blast kills 18

From Hasan Akhtar, Islamabad, May 8

A mysterious explosion almost destroyed a new police station in Peshawar last night and at least 18 people, mainly policemen, were reported to have died.

There is no more official information on the explosion, the second in the capital of the North-West Frontier Province adjoining Afghanistan in the last week.

Unofficial estimates put the death toll as high as 30 among those killed were four unidentified civilians who might have been people under arrest.

Army and Air Force personnel helped to clear debris and search for clues to the explosion.

The police station is on the way to the bazaar market, which deals largely in smuggled goods from the tribal belt about seven miles from the Peshawar cantonment.

According to one unconfirmed report, the explosion took place in the compound of the police station and could have been caused by a rocket fired from as far away as Jalalabad in Afghanistan.

The incident follows another explosion at the headquarters of Peshawar only five days ago which destroyed the headquarters of Jamiatul Islami Afghanistan and its guerrillas, killing about 25 Afghans.

Earlier, on May 1, an explosion in Peshawar, the headquarters of Kurram Tribal Agency, killed five people at a bus stop.

No reason for these explosions has been given officially and there is speculation that they may be in retaliation against Afghan refugees using bases in Pakistan for armed incursions into Afghanistan.

The influx of a very large number of Afghan refugees in Pakistani areas adjoining the North-West Frontier Province and Baluchistan has caused some resentment among the local population.

Officially about 70,000 Afghan refugees are living in camps in the two provinces. Many of them compete with local men for work producing intense rivalry.

Labour force is also searching for jobs in Karachi about 1,000 miles from Peshawar. Games boycott: The Pakistan Olympic Association today decided to boycott the Moscow Olympic Games, but left the final decision in the hands of Mr Syed Wajid Ali, its president.

A statement said the present border situation and influx of Afghan refugees did not permit full concentration on a world game. The Moscow Olympic medal winner at Montreal is believed to be keen to enter the Moscow games, but a final decision is expected in the next fortnight, during which the Islamic Foreign Ministers will hold their meeting here.

Tito funeral talks help to break ice

From Desha Trevisan, Belgrade, May 9

The funeral of President Tito yesterday provided ample opportunity for world leaders to establish tentative contact through informal meetings which, while not resolving any great problems, served to break the ice.

Representatives of 127 countries, including 35 heads of state, 24 Prime Ministers and numerous Foreign Ministers have now left Belgrade after one of the largest gatherings of world leaders.

The busiest man was Chairman Hua Guofeng of China, who after the leading politicians, including Mrs Indira Gandhi of India, Pakistan's President Zia-ul-Haq, the Iranian Foreign Minister, Mr Sadegh Qobzadeh, President Ceausescu of Rumania, the West German Chancellor, Mr Helmut Schmidt, North Korea's President Kim Il Sung and the Palestinian leader, Mr Yasser Arafat.

Mr Brezhnev, the Soviet leader, showed no desire to meet either the Chinese or the Americans, although Mr Brezhnev gave a brief nod of acknowledgement when Mr Walter Mondale passed near him which the American Vice-President did not return.

Mr Qobzadeh met Dr Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary-General, and is said to have urged the release of the Shah's rule which was withheld pending the Iranian honouring of a commitment undertaken previously to move the American hostages from the custody of the students to the Government.

According to an unofficial account of the meeting, Mr Qobzadeh was told that, unless something was done to enhance the credibility of the Iranian Government's undertaking, the report would not be released. But, according to the same source, the Iranian Government's task would be made easier by the publication of the report which is said to contain severe accusations against the Shah as well as American policy in Iran.

On the Western side, Herr Schmidt was the most sought-after leader. He met Chairman Hua as well as Mr Brezhnev briefly while the delegations waited for the funeral procession to begin. Later the same day he had an 80-minute talk with his East German opposite number, Herr Honecker, which, according to an official spokesman, was held in a relaxed atmosphere.

While the talks between various delegations went on, American diplomats were anxiously trying to justify President Carter's decision not to attend the funeral by putting forward explanations that he did not wish any comparisons with Mr Brezhnev, or that he did not wish to meet him, both of which sounded like embarrassing excuses, especially since it is known that the State Department had been urging Mr Carter to attend.

Nevertheless, the blunder now seems to be recognized.

UN calls on Israel to cancel expulsions

New York, May 9.—The United Nations Security Council last night approved a resolution on Israel to rescind the illegal deportation of three West Bank Arab leaders. The United States abstained in spite of open criticism by the State Department of the Israeli action at the time.

The brief resolution had been carefully tailored to meet several American objections. Nevertheless, the administration ordered Mr William Vance, the deputy chief delegate, not to support the measure. He said it lacked balance because it did not refer to the terrorist attack that led to the expulsions.

In private, officials said that President Carter's election concerns were paramount in the decision to abstain. Israeli diplomats here and in Washington had pressed for a United States veto.

The resolution expresses deep concern over Israel's expulsion of Mayor Fahad Kawasmeh of Hebron, Mayor Muhammad Milhem of Halhul and Sheikh Raja Eyyud Tamini, a judge from Hebron. The document calls upon Israel to rescind these illegal measures and facilitate the immediate return of the expelled Palestinian leaders.

Israel deported the three to Lebanon last Saturday after Palestinian Arabs in Hebron hurled grenades and fired into a group of Jews returning from religious services, killing six and wounding 16.

Mr Yehuda Blum, the Israeli delegate, denounced the council's resolution as an act of hypocrisy and selective conscience. He said, "The expelled Arab leaders have been expelled only after their words and activities led to bloodshed."

New York Times News Service.

Subsidy threat over showing of execution film

Washington, May 9.—Hints were made today that Congress might cut the Public Broadcasting System, the non-commercial American television network, if it showed films like the controversial *Death of a Princess* which has offended Saudi Arabia.

Mr Clement Zablocki, chairman of the House of Representatives' foreign affairs committee, said he strongly opposed the planned showing of the British-made film next Monday.

In a television interview he said that he had not seen the film but denounced it as inaccurate, offensive and damaging to the national interest. Noting that PBS receives Government funds, he said: "If it is going to show substandard films, why should we waste the taxpayer's money?"

PBS was also criticized by Mobil Oil, which gives \$3.2m (£1.4m) a year to the network and is one of the four owners of the Arabian American Oil Company.

Aramco produces close to 75 per cent of Saudi Arabia's 9.5 million barrels a day of oil and Saudi Arabia is the largest supplier of foreign oil to the United States.

Mobil said in an advertisement in *The New York Times* yesterday that PBS should "exercise responsible judgment in the light of what is in the best interests of the United States."

A PBS representative said today that seven out of the 248 television stations that have rights to show the film had said they would not broadcast it.—Reuters.

Jakarta drug haul

Jakarta, May 9.—Police seized 11lb of heroin worth about £10m from a couple as they were about to board an aircraft to Amsterdam.

All things taken together, Air Marshal Asghar Khan has made any moves publicly. Close associates say their hatred of the air marshal rules out support for him. Among his former partners in the defunct nine-party Pakistan National Alliance, one—Professor Ghaffar Ahmad—the other day accused the Teluk chief of sabotaging the agreement with Mr Bhutto on reholding the 1977 general elections, despite the fact that the obvious alternative was martial law.

All things taken together, Air Marshal Asghar Khan does not pose any serious threat to General Zia's martial law. It is possible that this weekend there will be an indication of how far he will be allowed to go.

Sadat move delays negotiations

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv, May 9

Israelis engaged in negotiations with Egypt over Palestinian autonomy were mystified by Cairo's announcement last night suspending the talks. But Mr Ezer Weizman, the Defence Minister, returned from Egypt and explained that the postponement was due to domestic considerations.

Mr Weizman said that on Wednesday President Sadat is due to deliver a speech "apparently of much substance and great domestic significance."

"They asked us that, in as much as there will be several declarations, we should not come Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday."

An Israeli radio correspondent in Cairo said that President Sadat will announce changes in the Government which may involve Dr Mustapha Khalil, the Prime Minister, or others engaged in the negotiations.

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Nkomo aide tipped for legal post in Zimbabwe

From Fred Cleary, Salisbury, May 9

Mr Leo Baror, a British-born white man who is Deputy Chief Justice of Zambia, has been tipped to be the new Chief Justice of Zimbabwe. His appointment is expected to be announced officially next week.

Mr Baror is 63 and a close friend and legal and political adviser to Mr Joshua Nkomo, the Patriotic Front leader and Minister of Home Affairs.

Mr Baror was seldom far from Mr Nkomo's side during many conferences on a Rhodesian settlement in Africa and Europe. Should his appointment be confirmed, Mr Baror will succeed Mr Justice Hecton Macdonald, who retired last month and went to live in Cape Town.

Mr Baror's appointment is bound to cause some controversy here among the legal profession and whites generally. It will be seen as a political reward for a man who has identified himself with black nationalism for many years and who was detained several times by Mr Ian Smith's Rhodesian Front Government.

The legal world will see the appointment as an affront to the present panel of judges who might normally have been considered for the highest legal post in the land.

Mr Baror has the right legal qualifications for a new constitution says that a High Court judge must have been qualified and practised as an advocate for at least seven years. He is practised in Bulawayo since soon after the Second World War.

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Successful candidates in Law Society part II qualifying examinations

The Law Society announces that the following candidates have passed the part II qualifying examinations held on February 11, 12, 13 and 14. An asterisk indicates a distinction. The heads of the examination are: 1. conveyancing; 2. accounts; 3. revenue law; 4. equity and succession; 5. commercial law; 6. company law and partnership; 7. family law; 8. local government law; 9. magisterial law.

SECOND CLASS HONOURS

G. D. Morrison, 1.3, 4.5, 6.7.

BIRMINGHAM

A. Adams, 1.3, 4.5, 6.7, 8.9, 10.11, 12.13, 14.15, 16.17, 18.19, 20.21, 22.23, 24.25, 26.27, 28.29, 30.31, 32.33, 34.35, 36.37, 38.39, 40.41, 42.43, 44.45, 46.47, 48.49, 50.51, 52.53, 54.55, 56.57, 58.59, 60.61, 62.63, 64.65, 66.67, 68.69, 70.71, 72.73, 74.75, 76.77, 78.79, 80.81, 82.83, 84.85, 86.87, 88.89, 90.91, 92.93, 94.95, 96.97, 98.99, 100.101, 102.103, 104.105, 106.107, 108.109, 110.111, 112.113, 114.115, 116.117, 118.119, 120.121, 122.123, 124.125, 126.127, 128.129, 130.131, 132.133, 134.135, 136.137, 138.139, 140.141, 142.143, 144.145, 146.147, 148.149, 150.151, 152.153, 154.155, 156.157, 158.159, 160.161, 162.163, 164.165, 166.167, 168.169, 170.171, 172.173, 174.175, 176.177, 178.179, 180.181, 182.183, 184.185, 186.187, 188.189, 190.191, 192.193, 194.195, 196.197, 198.199, 200.201, 202.203, 204.205, 206.207, 208.209, 210.211, 212.213, 214.215, 216.217, 218.219, 220.221, 222.223, 224.225, 226.227, 228.229, 230.231, 232.233, 234.235, 236.237, 238.239, 240.241, 242.243, 244.245, 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Saturday Review

Five days that changed the world

by Alistair Horne

Forty years ago today Hitler struck in the West. Five days later France's military power—vast and imposing, on paper—was broken, the battle lost. In the long run the war against Germany would now be conducted, and won, essentially by Soviet manpower and American materiel; the ensuing peace dictated not, as in 1918, by Britain and France but by the superpowers of the USA and the USSR. The old order of things that was changed in those disastrous days of May, 1940 has never stopped changing.

Human memory is perverse. It can weave its own fantasies to order or sometimes fix with unerring accuracy on facts buried under almost half a century of clutter. Though only a schoolboy in my first (and last) year at Stowe at the time, there are some details of that sinister, glorious spring of which I feel I can say, with Maurice Chevalier and Hermione Gingold, "I remember it well."

There was the amazing torrid sunshine, "Goering's weather." It came to be called, which seemed to go on and on, "made the world flowers bloom" with unprecedented beauty; they in turn brought out the butterflies in a profusion I have certainly never seen since.

I had spent the previous summer trying to make a homemade wireless work, and it had finally sparked into life on the morning of September 3. Through all the howls and squeals the first human voice I picked up was the flat tones of Chamberlain declaring war, and I had distressed my father by rushing into the room where he was glued gloomily to his receiver declaring, "Wonderful news—it works!"

Smuggling it in pieces to school, I set up its valves and slopping accumulators secretly in one of Stowe temples. A few miles away at Bletchley, equipment that was probably not so very much more sophisticated than a few years ago—busy picking up and decoding German "Enigma" secrets. Mine, madly, denigering never worked again though I devoted much of that May tinkering with it—a further distraction from all that was happening in the outside world.

We were all, I suppose, sublimely insulated. The brutal smashing of Poland in September had shocked us and, at about the same time, I remember being terrified by a film called *An Englishman's Home*, with that redoubtable actor Edmund Gwenn, which depicted air raids followed by invasion and all the panoply of Nazi horror. But Poland was a "far-away country" and war—let alone defeat—on English soil was unthinkable.

The *Illustrated London News* kept us encouragingly informed of the progress of the Maginot Line and we cheered as the mighty Graf Spee was cornered by three small British cruisers; that seemed the kind of war which Britain was destined to fight. On the Western Front the long-protracted peace really furthered at bay. Lustily we went on singing "We're gonna hang out the washing on the Siegfried Line".

In April the esse—and surprise—with which the *Wehrmacht* invaded Norway shook us again. But reports of German naval losses made it sound like a Jutland; again, the kind of war for Britain. After Norway it was the German attack on the West.

We sensed the disquiet in the air, but with it the peculiar British conviction that things would turn out as they should. I went on chasing butterflies and twiddling condensers.

Now that the Cabinet and War Office papers have been released, one learns that the charge was almost as far removed from reality as we schoolboys. Here is Neville Chamberlain, writing on November 5, 1939: "I have a hunch that the war will be over before the spring. It won't be by a defeat in the field but by German realization that they can't win." This sense of unreality was the time until well after the German breakthrough at Sedan.

In Germany, on the eve of the new *Blitzkrieg*, Hitler, with remarkable self-assurance, claimed to his assembled General Staff: "Gentlemen, you are about to witness the most famous victory in history. Like an oriental despot he gave a gold watch to his chief meteorologist for predicting good weather for the following day, May 10. He deserved it."

Leaving Berlin on the night of the ninth, Hitler took such exceptional security measures that even close cronies like Martin Bormann thought he was off to visit Oslo. The "Führer Special" train first headed north, then under cover of darkness swung west to take

Hitler to his battle headquarters at Maastricht, close to the Belgian Ardennes.

At dawn the following morning the *Wehrmacht* hurled itself forward, all the way from neutral Luxembourg to equally neutral Holland in the north. An astonishing gamble had been embarked upon. More than to almost any other single factor its success was due to a series of accidents imposing radical changes on the German strategic plan, which had originally envisaged an attack in the West the previous November, immediately after the Polish campaign. One of these setbacks had been the Mecklenburg incident on January 10 when an aircraft bearing a German staff officer with most of the details of "Plan Yellow" made a forced landing in Belgium.

The redrafting of this caused, largely the work of a genius called General von Manstein, converted what had been an unimaginative blueprint to one of inspired daring. Called *Sichelschnitt*, or literally, "cut of a sickle," it involved an advance into northern Belgium and Holland which would, however, in the admiral's simile of Basil Liddell Hart—merely act "like a matador's cloak" up in the north.

Waved at the BEF and the powerful French forces in Flanders, this would draw them eastwards into Belgium while the main blow was delivered elsewhere. It would come just north of where the Maginot Line ended, through the rugged and densely forested country of the Ardennes, which the French General Staff were known to consider impassable and which they had therefore covered with only inferior forces. The breakthrough, if it succeeded, would burst across the River Meuse between Namur and Sedan and put into the flat plains of France.

While only 28 divisions were allocated to Bock's Army Group A, waving the "matador's cloak" up in the north, 44 were concentrated under Rundstedt's Group A in the south—including virtually all the elite, fast-moving *Panzer* divisions. Among these, the Channel was their ultimate objective, few of the *Wehrmacht's* commanders shared Hitler's remarkable self-assurance.

On the other side of the line, matters were in the hands of the French C-in-C, General Maurice Gamelin, operating from a conventional GHQ at Vincennes. Under him came a tangled chain of command—General Georges to General Billotte, commanding Army Group No. 1, which also contained Lord Gort's BEF.

Unimpressive a commander as Gamelin was, recent information suggests that, back in October, 1939, he came close to predicting the eventual direction of the main German thrust. Nevertheless he allowed himself to father the Allied "Plan D" whereby—immediately on Germany invading Belgium, 33 of the best British and French divisions would rush eastwards to the Dyle—as Hitler had foreseen.

The key sector between Namur and Sedan was held by General Corap's 9th and Huntziger's 2nd Army, immobile and of poor quality. No less than 30 French divisions were planned down unprofitably behind the Maginot Line; while Gamelin's last mobile reserve, Giraud's 7th Army, had—late in the day—been committed to make a mad dash to Breda, to lend a hand to the Dutch if attacked. Thus before the battle was even joined the famous French reserve of manoeuvre, of which much was to be heard later, was virtually non-existent.

On the other hand, at least on paper, the disparity of forces was less than has generally been believed. By 1940 the *Wehrmacht* was still like a spear with a hard steel tip, but a vulnerable shaft of wood. The majority of infantry divisions that followed the *Panzer* had 5,000 horses against 900 motor vehicles. They were of mixed value and had a determined armoured raid sliced into them chaos might well have ensued. In armour, the Allies actually had more and better tanks (3,000 to 2,700), with more than half of the German *Panzer* light and already obsolete. What counted, however, was that the *Wehrmacht* concentrated its tanks while the French had theirs split up.

In artillery, France was also numerically superior. But this was out-balanced by German air superiority, where the margin was most marked. Indeed, it was to prove decisive: 1,200 French and 630 RAF planes were faced by the *Luftwaffe's* 3,226, of which 342 were *Stuka* dive-bombers. These screaming birds of prey were probably

what Allied veterans would most vividly remember of the campaign. Again, in contrast to the Allies, the *Luftwaffe* was masterfully concentrated and well coordinated with the ground forces.

Above all, what was most lacking on the French side was the will to fight. The memories of the 1,500,000 dead of the First World War, the sapping effects of the *Front Populaire*, the unhelpfulness of Britain as a military partner in the inter-war years (even by September 1939 four divisions were all she could send to France), appeasement, Hitler's bloodless victories and the appalling swift smashing-up of Poland had all left their mark, as had the lethargy of the months of the "phony war".

The stage was set for disaster. Such was the brutality of the onslaught on Holland by *Stukas*, paratroops and *Sturm* columns—magnified rumours of which were subsequently to cause panic in Belgium and France—that the "matador's cloak" succeeded totally in deceiving the world, and the French High Command. The Allied advance into north Belgium proceeded almost without let or hindrance; one of the few to smell a rat was a correspondent of *The Times*, well-trained in the arts of deception, a certain Kim Philby, who remarked to an American colleague: "It went too damn well. With all that air power why didn't he bother us? What is he up to?"

At Stowe the first revelation of the full deadliness of the machine bearing down on us came with the news of the fall of Fort Eben Emael. Supposedly the world's strongest fortress and linch-pin of the Belgian defences, it was taken in the first 24 hours; as was later revealed, by a handful of German landing on top of the Meuse all the way from Dinant (Rommel) to Sedan (Guderian). Still the French *Deuxieme Bureau* failed to recognize the danger, reckoning (as usual, on the basis of First World War experience) that the Germans would require at least five or six days to concentrate before they could force a river crossing.

British Cabinet papers now released reveal how this erroneous judgment was pushed on to and shared by London. At 6.30 pm on the 13th—by which time Guderian was already over the Meuse—Churchill told the War Cabinet that he was "by no means sure that the great battle was developing". This was supported by Ironside, who said that though German mechanized forces were advancing, there were "as yet no signs of infantry columns", without which the *Panzer* would eventually be forced to withdraw.

French assessments ignored the power of the *Luftwaffe*. Towards midday on the 13th, about 1,000 planes struck the French positions opposite Sedan. One of the weakest points of the line, it was held by "fat and flabby" reservists of the 55th and 71st Divisions of General Huntziger's 2nd Army. Down screamed the *Stukas*, losing their 1,000lb bombs on the thin-skinned pillboxes, on the infantry crouching exposed in their trenches and on the gun crews in their poorly concealed gunpits.

The noise was terrifying. The French reservist had the impression that each plane was about "to land right on top of him", that it simply could not miss. Casualties in fact were not great, but the terror caused by the *Stukas* was: "The gunners stopped firing and went to ground," wrote one French general; "the infantry cowered in their trenches... their only concern was to keep their heads well down". Meanwhile, over the battlefront the Messerschmitt squadrons circled pouncing on any slower French fighter that tried to interfere.

At 4 pm the Meuse crossing began. Guderian, who, true to the new *Panzer* philosophy, had crossed over in one of the first assault boats, recorded that it proceeded "as though it were being carried out on manoeuvres". At night the *Panzer* had begun to ferry its tanks across into a comfortable bridgehead three miles wide and four to six miles deep. At Dinant the resourceful Guderian had got his divisions across by means of an undetected weir.

For the next 24 hours, bitter fighting ensued around the narrow bridgehead. A feeble First counter-attack by only two French tank battalions at Sedan was brushed aside. A more threatening riposte by the powerful 3rd Armoured

Division was so slow in getting off the ground that it was unbalanced by the speed of Guderian's movements, it ended up with its excellent tanks dug in for a static defence along First World War principles. It was then destroyed piecemeal.

Similar fates overtook the other two French armoured divisions; the 1st caught retreating by Rommel, the 2nd cut in two by the main *Panzer* thrust as it broke out two days later.

By the afternoon of May 14 Guderian had completed the annihilation of the 55th and 71st divisions. Some 200 Allied bombers relentlessly attacked his vital pontoon bridges; 85 were shot down and their mission failed.

Having burst a hole in the flank of Huntziger's 2nd Army at its junction with Corap's 9th Army, Guderian now wheeled round to smash at the latter. Meanwhile the two French commanders each independently made a fateful decision. Huntziger began to pivot back on the Maginot Line while Corap abandoned the line of the Meuse and withdrew westwards. The result was a gaping hole between the two armies, more than 40 miles wide, into which the concentrated *Panzer* poured.

With the sluice-gates opened, May 15 was the day the flood burst into France. The *Panzer* advanced 37 miles to Montcornet, only 11 miles south-west of Corap's Army headquarters, spelling doom for the 9th Army. That night Corap was relieved of what remained of his command.

Some of his men had not fought well; others had shown great courage. One officer, before committing suicide, wrote to Paul Reynaud: "I am killing myself, *M. Le Président*, to let you know that all my men were brave, but one cannot send men to fight tanks with rifles."

The Germans' lightning offensive that broke France 40 years ago: the unimpressive French commander General Gamelin (far left) almost predicted the outcome but General Heinz Guderian's *Panzer* divisions were unstoppable. A French officer wrote in a suicide note: "... one cannot send men to fight tanks with rifles."

Montage by Trevor Sutton

On May 16 Churchill made his famous sortie to Paris. Before his departure, revealing once again just how out of touch with events he had been kept, he told the War Cabinet: "I consider that a withdrawal from our line on account of the penetration of the French line, by a force of some 120 German armoured vehicles, is quite unjustifiable."

In Paris there took place the interview so vividly described in *The Second World War*, Gamelin dumbfounding him with the admission that there was "no mass of manoeuvre". "I consider that a withdrawal of the Quai d'Orsay archives." On returning, Churchill's report to the Cabinet showed that he at least now comprehended the deadly beauty of *Sichelschnitt*. "It is now plain why the Allied troops had not been bombed in their advance into Belgium; the Germans wanted to get us into forward positions, in order to effect a breakthrough and turn our flank."

Yet, characteristically, he refused to accept the battle lost, and to the end would persist in cooperating with the unrealistic efforts of Weyand (Gamelin's successor) to pierce the *Panzer* "corridor".

Though it continued another five weeks, what remained of the 1940 campaign was something of a foregone conclusion after those disastrous first five days. On May 20 Guderian's *Panzer* reached the Channel, effectively splitting the Allied armies and trapping the BEF, the Belgian army and the cream of the French forces in Billotte's No 1 Army Group. Weyand's much vaunted counter-attack (including two courageous but ineffectual attempts by the half-trained 4th Armoured Division, under a Colonel de Gaulle) was never a starter.

By June 1 the bulk of the BEF had been evacuated in the "miracle" of Dunkirk and the Germans turned south to mop up the helpless remainder of France. On June 22 an armistice was signed. Imme-

diately afterwards "Goering's weather" ended in a violent thunderstorm.

At Stowe I remember being told of the French capitulation in class by a gloomy physics teacher, "Daddy" Dewing. B way of comfort, he assured us that the Germans had lost a many more than they would have been able to fight another battle. How wrong he was. The German dead in fact totalled more than 27,074—not many more than Britain lost on its first day of the Somme in 1916.

Life at school now assumed a grim earnestness; the OT were instructed on how to lie logs across cricket pitches the event of airborne invasion the younger of us were allotted various dispersal points. Nights we were aware of the night bombers, the peculiarly unsyncronized note of the German bombers. In July I was shipped off unwillingly to America as "bundle from Britain", on to return four years later uniform and new to a Stowe's its temples or its butterflies again.

The three decades that followed 1940 produced detailed pictures obscured the time. But how much has this been altered by what has subsequently come in light of the hitherto secret British documents published during the past 10 years? Over a broad canvas, the answer is, believe, not much.

The performance of the British army was perhaps even more unfairly denigrated both by Reynaud and Churchill than one had previously suspected; the Churchill War Cabinet even worse informed about the true state of ever in France. On the other hand Churchill comes out better against the backdrop of the additional fighter squadrons for France (it appears that the dramatic occasion when Dowding presented his graph of Hurricane loss to the Cabinet took place, as previously suggested, May 15 but three weeks later which would have considerably reduced its impact).

Above all else, however, closure of the extraordinary "Ultra" secret entitles one ask, "Well, if we were already breaking German 'Enigma' ciphers, why could we have spotted the true object of *Sichelschnitt* and done something to counter it?"

There seems to be some answers. In the first place, change of ciphers just before the attack meant that if "Enigma" signals could read during the crucial first few days, the security imposed by security measures of the preliminary troop dispositions to be made over landlines not tappable "Ultra"—a technique also considerably repeated during the battle.

Thirdly, Bletchley and French equivalents were new to the game as to be overwhelmed by the volume of intercepts while communist spies between Intelligence and the front command were so archaic that speed with which the *Blitzkrieg* moved, information users arrived too late to help.

Exchanges between French and British "Ultra" tea were to say the least past and matter were imposed on the British side by the habit of leading the BEF in the front—like a good ball command, but divergent from his L-Branch. (Possibly the most useful tip provided by "Ultra" in 1940 was that of German moves to close a ring round Dunkirk on May 23, which persuaded Gort to make for the sea as quickly possible).

Finally, however, as Ron Lewin remarks in *Ultra* to War (Hutchinson, 1979) "if your enemy, having strategic surprise, attack with irresistible power a panache, then the best of intelligence... tends merely to confirm the inevitable." For May 1940 was an almost perfect blueprint for victory like Napoleon's Austerlitz was Hitler's most brilliant campaign; similarly, too, its flaw was not defeating Britain to send Hitler, like Napoleon, to ultimate defeat in Russia. As a copybook manoeuvre Guderian's crossing at Sedan would be replayed by the wretched Israeli in their attack across the Bitter Lakes during the Yom Kippur war of 1973.

As a more baneful long-term influence, that *Panzer* was driven between the British and French armies which led our exit from Dunkirk still seems to have more than just symbolic bearing on Franco-British relations 40 years later.

The author's book, *To Lose Battle*, France 1940, was published by Macmillan in 1969; an updated edition is published last year by Penguin £2.25.

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The winning of Oskar's Oscar

The debris of *The Tin Drum*, which opens at the Odeon, Haymarket, next week, fills Volker Schlöndorff's home in Munich. On top of the piano is a drum with red and white triangles painted around its waist. Another sits on top of a bookcase above a picture of the Brontës. The drums are symbols of his success, for they are the central props in his film of Gunter Grass's novel.

It arrives with high commendation. *The Tin Drum* shared the Golden Palm for the best picture at the Cannes Film Festival last year and won this year's Oscar for best foreign picture. The two most vivid images in the film are the drum and the haunted face of David Bennent, the boy who plays Oskar. Grass's hero who decides at the age of three to stop growing and whose screen shatters glass.

Volker Schlöndorff set on the soft, pouring rain. Behind him was more evidence of his success: two lithographs of David Bennent by Gunter Grass, one signed "for Volker", and the original of Roland Topor's French cinema poster for *The Tin Drum* with Oskar peering out of the drum skin, dancing on a woman's naked belly. The missing object was the Oscar, which is still in Los Angeles being engraved.

"I have agreed with David Bennent that he will have it for six months of the year and I will have it the other half," Schlöndorff said. "We will be looking at it just as we look at the book. We were tense when working together, but this was perhaps better for the film."

"The collaboration was that I would ask questions and he would answer them. What would they have had for lunch? How did the mother look? What would the mother say here? We never discussed the meaning of the metaphor. The one thing I learned from Grass was that the tin drum wasn't a symbol but an object."

"The boy is a very real figure and, of course, he is caricaturing the infantism of the whole period. But for seeing a scene, it is no help. Gunter Grass would only write about what he had experienced in some way. I thought when I read the book for the first time, what a fantasy world, what a work of imagination. But the more I spoke to him, the more I knew that all the events, if not experienced by him, were told to him by his family."

"Danzig is a very real place to him. He would say, 'I cut one hour out of the film anyway. We had a very severe contract because of the trouble. The film stopped at 1945. The novel is about how the same people adapted very smoothly to the Nazis, then to the Americans, then to liberal democracy. But the film is a film and it has its own laws. One is that you cannot change your character mid-film, when Oskar starts growing again. No audience would take that. It just wouldn't work.'"

Even leaving the second half out, the film was very long. "I cut one hour out of the film anyway. We had a very severe contract because of the trouble. The film stopped at 1945. The novel is about how the same people adapted very smoothly to the Nazis, then to the Americans, then to liberal democracy. But the film is a film and it has its own laws. One is that you cannot change your character mid-film, when Oskar starts growing again. No audience would take that. It just wouldn't work." Gunter Grass's novel is the most prominent work of post-war German fiction, a criticism of Nazism from the economic miracle of the Fifties. It is a story of a boy, Oskar, who is born in Danzig, a city of literature and culture, and who grows up to be a writer. He is a boy who is born in Danzig, a city of literature and culture, and who grows up to be a writer. He is a boy who is born in Danzig, a city of literature and culture, and who grows up to be a writer.

War Requiem
BBC 2/Radio 3
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Over the Benedictine long files shuffling through the snow: for the Day of Wrath raised guns, propellers whirling, propellers for attack; during Owen's poem "The Next War" scenes of callous military command, but boots crashing through doors as helpless villagers gawp; everywhere exhausted faces, smoking heaps of flesh and bone, flames licking to obscene heights in a terrible wind. Once you combine the resources of British, German



Gunter Grass, David Bennett and Victor Schlöndorff


that he agreed to collaborate on the script.

"I was very intimidated by Gunter Grass, because over the past 20 years he has become one of the most influential figures in the Federal Republic. It's not just about his appeal to an audience which is probably younger than I am? In the end Grass said it is all right because it isn't about a Catholic anyway, it is about a convert."

Gunter Grass was satisfied enough with Schlöndorff's interpretation to agree to work with him on a second film, taken from an essay soon to be published in Germany. They also have a mutual commitment to return to *The Tin Drum* in five years' time and consider filming the second half of the book, Oskar's life from 1945 onwards, which the first film did not attempt. Schlöndorff, who was born in 1939, is very keen to deal with this contemporary part.

"The great lie about German history is that in 1945 there was a year zero and a new system started and the slate was wiped clean. But there was more of continuity than of rupture. At that moment, the film stopped at 1945. The novel is about how the same people adapted very smoothly to the Nazis,

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Drink

Keep cool

For tonight, I suggested a glass of white wine, which would go well with the snacks or even stand up being drunk without food. There are some red wines which go into the same category. But first one more rose from Cyprus.

The roses from that island (most common) are because of their deep colour and full flavour. Ken's Rosella, very well made, is flame-pink, with a bouquet and full style, ending dry and clean. Don't serve it, just serve it cool. From many Cyprus shops, Rosella is also on sale at Millia, 1-15 Pratt Street, NW1, and costs £1.75.

Cape reds, gussy and down-right, benefit enormously by cooling a little bottle age, when the subtle fragrance, mellow and the strands of flavour become more distinct. The KVV's Roodeberg 1976 is currently a definite bargain; a head of grapes, it is an admirable accompaniment to a snail, sausage, or every sort of meat pie. Open and let it breathe, it is possible before serving. Roodeberg, £2.39 (1976), branches of Gough Brothers, whose headquarters are at 12 Upper Green West, Mitcham.

Portuguese red wines are also versatile in partnering salads and informal food. Serravallo is one I have liked for many years and the 1974 vintage combines a fluid style with a firm, stony freshness underlying the slightly soft initial flavour. Again it should be opened an hour or so before serving. Serravallo, £2.39 (1974), branches of Gough Brothers, 12 Upper Green West, SW1, and 29 White Rock, Hastings, Sussex.

Three, reds that might provide a novelty even to the experienced are possible suggestions for a take to a host or hostess. The United States grape, the Zinfandel, does not often appeal to me, as the flavour seems too reminiscent of rusty nails, but the 1976, Inverness Zinfandel, from Mendocino, is softer than usual, with a crisp flavour, a pleasant surprise. It is a definite flash; the rusty taste is unobtrusive. It is a wine to drink with coarse pâté, pizza or, probably best of all, hamburgers. (£3.05 from André Simon, 50 Elizabeth St., S.W.1).

A really fine, Bourgeois Passoutougrain 1978 comes from the Domaine Clair. Dail, a recently respected establishment. The odd name means "treat all the grapes", from the time when small growers could not manage to vinify the Pinot Noir and Gamay separately; the wine must be at least one-third Pinot Noir, which ends up as in this sample, with a graceful, elegant style, plus the zip and crispness of the Gamay—"a love match in the vat", say the producers. A beautiful brilliant colour, it is enticingly fresh. (£3.90 from Dolamore, 16 Paddington Green, W2, and the Oxford and Cambridge branches).

It is not often remembered that, before 1914, more red wine than white was made—also from the Pinot Noir—in the Sancerre vineyard. The 1978 Domaine de la Romanée, of Jean Vacheron, of Sancerre, is a beautiful wine, whose individual taste in wine make his list of great interest to the retail buyer. This is an important wine, the deep red of old-fashioned roses with a hint of blue, substantial in taste, assertive in style, and a little warm, as its charm seems to lie in its unfolding fruity freshness, typical of Sancerre wines.

The Malmesbury Wine Club, St. Pancras Chambers, Euston Road, N.W.1, have the 1978 Sancerre Rouge from the same vineyard, for £4.25; they will replace it with the 1978 in due course. Their buyer, who has just issued a new and magnificent list, considers the earlier vintage to be slightly warmer and with a little more acidity than the 1976—but both examples are delicious.

A new VDQS of the Côteaux d'Aix-en-Provence should appeal, as it is both an easy drink and of quite robust flavour, able to stand up in a smoky atmosphere (or out of doors), alongside snacks such as quiches and British marinated or blue cheeses. This is the 1978 La Commanderie de la Basse, made by the same vineyard as the 1976—but both examples are delicious.

Pamela vandyke Price

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The planning was hurried but the aim was clear. We wanted to see as much of biblical, historical Israel as we could without actually touring. We had a look at straightforward packages but didn't find what we needed. Viscount Travel of Richmond suggested a choose-yourself package which, when chosen, they would fix. So, with the help of the Bible, maps, pamphlets, excellent advice from friends and our own inclinations, we chose the following plan. Six nights at the Ginosar Kibbutz Inn on the Sea of Galilee, two nights at Shavei Zion—to have a day at Akko (Acre) and six nights in Jerusalem. The prepaid package included flights to and from Luton with Monarch Airlines, a taxi to take us to Galilee, bed and breakfast throughout and a taxi to return us to the airport. With insurance the cost per person was £306.

The Kibbutz Inn at Ginosar was a good choice as a first base. A few miles north of Tiberias, the setting has something of the serenity of a successful English farm and, like a successful English farm, a great deal of work goes on in the background. The Inn is just one of the kibbutz enterprises along with several hundred acres of bananas, grapefruit, cotton, a milking herd of 300 Friesians and other activities. Many kibbutzes now include an inn. This one was efficient, comfortable and unobtrusive. Dinner cost £4.50.

At Ginosar we were introduced to the Israeli breakfast—a long line of bowls containing three or four different kinds of soft cheese, cucumber, sliced radish, pickled fish, tomato, chopped lettuce, marmalade, etc. A dollop of anything you fancy goes on your plate and, taking a roll, you start to mop it all up. If

a mixture of pickled fish and soft cheese doesn't appeal, you can have an egg, but we enjoyed the mixtures.

Five days were packed with sightseeing, but Ginosar is also a good place for being lazy. Lawns stretch down to the lake-side where one can sit and watch the pied kingfishers hovering avidly over the shallows. In the distance are the Horns of Hattin where Saladin defeated the Crusaders.

Too determined a search for the land of the Gospels can be disappointing, but sometimes an expected scene is very moving. One day we watched two fishermen casting their net. No matter that the net was made of nylon, they had an outboard motor slung over the back of the boat, the scene was a timeless one.

We hired a car for one day (£37) and wandered through Upper Galilee. We found the deserted village and ancient ruined synagogue at Bar'am, drove along for a while by the Lebanese border, then back through the Hula valley—once a swamp, now partly drained and productive. Then we came on Hazer. This is where the holiday slid into the top gear of enthusiasm, for here was Ahab's great well. Emotionally unprepared for the impact of history, we found Hazer and that astonishing hole leading down to the well very exciting. We were weak on Ahab and could only remember that he was bad. Research back at Ginosar with a couple of fellow enthusiasts and their Bible proved that he was indeed bad and that, for wickedness, "there was none like unto Ahab."

We got carried away with Kings and Chronicles and the long-forgotten story of Ahab, which is like Hamlet full of quotations. How splendid to be reminded that it was Ahab who said to Elijah, "Hast thou found me, Oh, mine enemy?" Previous holidays had never included spirited readings from the Old Testament.

The bus journey to Shavei Zion was difficult because it was the Sabbath. We walked the last mile and a half carrying our cases. Here there were two bonus items; one the fine Roman aqueduct by the road and early Byzantine mosaic close to the seashore. By this time, we were "collecting" mosaics, which later, Israel and are fun to seek out. Akko was full of interest; busy markets jostled against sombre Crusader halls and beautifully tiled Turkish baths. Napoleonic cannon balls were two a penny. Well, not quite. Mine cost 25 pence.

An interesting bus ride, with one change at Haifa, took us to Jerusalem. There we stayed at the Tower Hotel, which did a brisk trade in tourists and fed them cheaply and cheerfully via a cafeteria. Jerusalem itself soon took charge and never let go. Its joys really are uncountable and one copes as best one may and hopes the energy will not run out before the time Clutching assorted guidebooks and historical maps we walked, wandered, wondered and saw.

Among the highlights were the mosaic of the former Armenian convent chapel—bright birds trying to hop out of their confining patterns; the view from the Mount of Olives; the excavations near the Western Wall; the great steps in the Kidron Valley (Hebrew tomb illustrated); the Arab boys' greeting "God Save the Queen" or "Feeshan-chips" or both. It was a while before we were quite sure what they were saying, but "Feeshan-chips" it was.

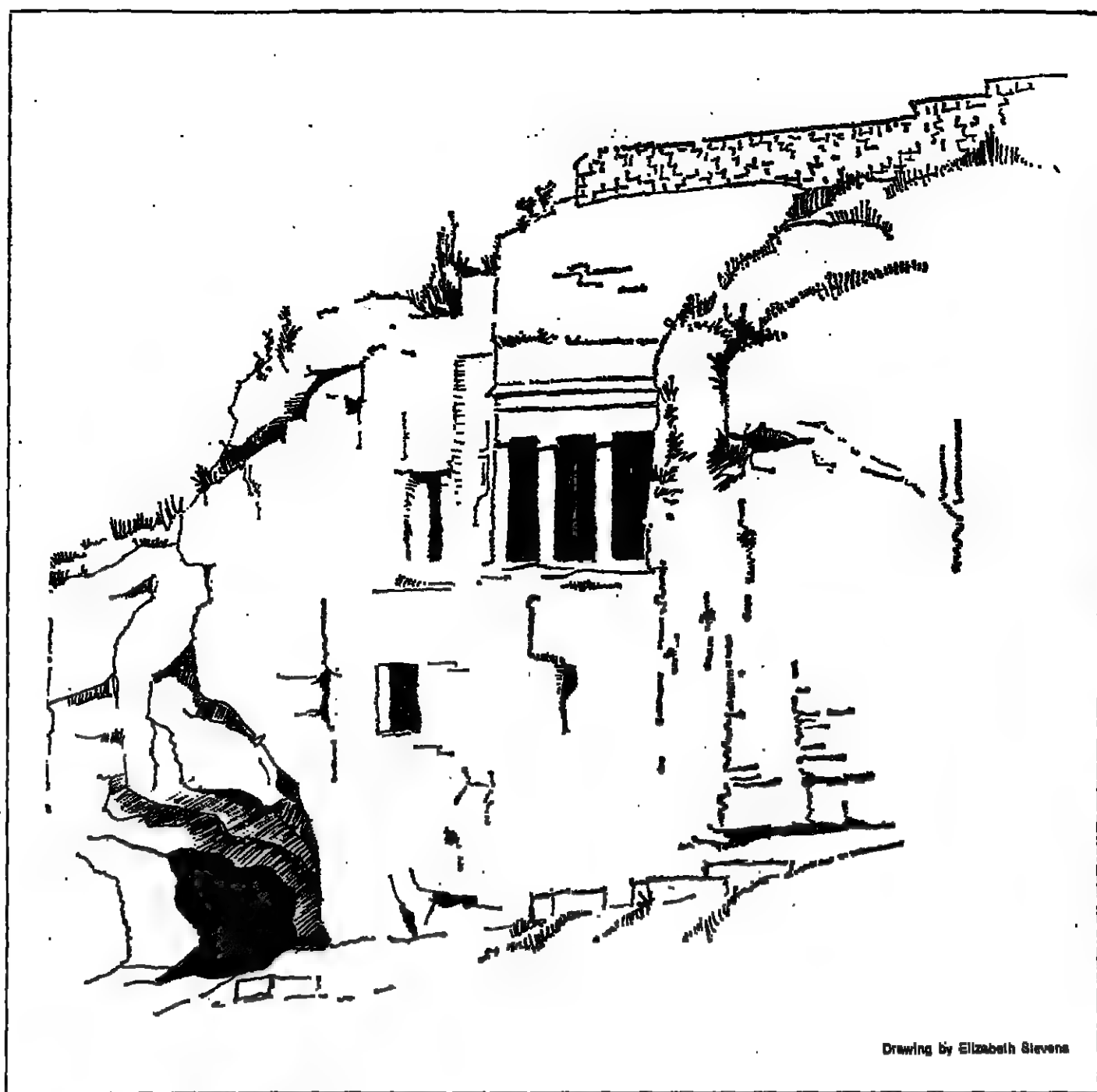
The best adventure was the walk through Hezekiah's tunnel (Kings II: 20, 20)—600 yards through hewn rock, guttering candle in hand—for which we finally emerged elated, biblical and soaked to the upper knees. On the long trip, we did Jericho, the Dead Sea and Masada, and that made a fitting climax.

Inflation is rampant in Israel and the prices quoted applied in February.

Elizabeth Stevens

Travel

Where the Old Testament becomes a guide book



Hezir's tomb one of the great monuments in the Kidron Valley.

Collecting

Facsimile of Jerusalem

William Blake is one of the most extraordinary figures in the history of British art. Poet, painter and visionary prophet, his contributions to the Romantic era were widely individual. With some debts to medieval art, some to engravings after Michelangelo and others to his Neo-Classical contemporaries, he threaded the human body into ornamental patterning rich in poetry and symbolic meaning.

Trained as an engraver, the bulk of his work was illustrative—sometimes of his own poetry and prophetic writing and sometimes of the work of others. His most original production in this field was his so-called Illuminated Books. Book text and illustrative design were engraved on a single plate and printed either in black and white or colours, the colouring then being finished by hand in water-colour.

Blake's work never achieved popular acclaim; his life was a struggle of poverty and struggle. His excitement and odd personality may have been partly to blame; he was already in trouble as a child for claiming to have seen a tree full of angels. The visions continued and were the source of many of his images.

Whatever the reasons for his contemporaries' lack of interest in his work, it had one practical result; very few copies of his illuminated books were printed. In a few cases only a single copy is known; it is rare for the owner to go over a dozen and then only for black and white printings.

Where the books were finished by hand colouring, one copy can vary radically from another. Blake was responsible for collecting pages; some copies have more than others and can be collated in a different order. Moreover, Blake continued to work on the plates and change them.

Getting to see and know these books—which are now widely distributed round the world—is exceedingly difficult. It was to make his work more accessible to scholars and admirers that the William Blake Trust was created in 1948. It has produced facsimiles of virtually all the illuminated books—only the *Illustrations to the Book of Job* remains to be published—and has taken on a range of other projects connected with Blake.

The facsimiles are of extraordinary, probably unrepeatable, quality. If you put the facsimile and original side by side it is hard to tell the difference. In owning a facsimile you are as near as a touch to owning an original Blake art work—in aesthetic terms at least. The Trust, however, is a non-profit-making body and the production of the books has been subsidized—in some cases quite heavily—by well-wishers. So the publication prices of the books have in the main been unrealistically low.

Several are still in print while the others turn up from time to time in the antiquarian book dealers. They are immensely desirable possessions for any admirer of Blake.

The initiative for the creation of the Blake Trust came from Sir Geoffrey Keynes and he has remained the lynchpin of the undertaking.

estate of a Blake collector later solved the financial problem.

Colonel William Stirling, the owner of Jerusalem, was taking a major risk. The book had to be disbound and kept in Paris for two years for constant comparison with the facsimile plates to ensure their faithfulness. The facsimile was finished finally in 1950 in an edition of 300 numbered copies at £34 each; long out of print, the facsimile is now worth £2,000. Even at the latter price it is not really so expensive; it contains 100 plates—thus valued at £20 a plate.

Early in its life Arnold Fawcus became the sole director of the Trianon Press, and he, with Sir Geoffrey Keynes, was the prime mover in the creation of the Blake facsimiles. He died last year leaving the plates for the two final Blake Trust productions ready for binding and publication; these were Samuel Palmer's engravings (included as a devoted disciple of Blake's) and the *Illustrations to the Book of Job*.

The Palmer should be ready by the end of this year and the *Job* in 1981; the distribution of the former will be handled, at least in part, by Maggs Bros of Berkeley Square. Its publication price is expected to be around £500; the *Job* will be more.

The facsimiles have been produced by a process which is becoming obsolete because of high labour costs—much of the process relies on human expertise and hand labour. The basic black and white engraving and sometimes a few colours are reproduced by the collotype process whereby the image is transferred photographically to a plate coated with light-sensitive gelatin.

Although the process is acknowledged as unmatched for the faithful reproduction of drawings or watercolours, the technical difficulties involved have led to it being largely abandoned.

It was formally lodged with the Bibliothèque Nationale when not in use for the preparation of the facsimiles. An endowment of £10,000 from the

In addition, where Blake's colouring is of tone and texture, the range of tone and texture is extended by the use of hand-tinted stencils. Each graduation of colour must be applied separately; to reproduce Blake's watercolour borders illustrating Gray's poems up to 50 colours were added separately in this way.

Fawcus was both an enthusiast and a perfectionist; every plate had to be passed by him personally and his standards were more than demanding. There were quantities of rejects on the Gray plates for instance, since both text and plate were not considered good enough unless cut to the nearest half millimetre.

The Blake Trust from the first has had eight British trustees, but two American associate trustees have played particularly important roles in the achievement of the project. Mr Lessing J. Rosenwald, long a trustee, bought them in 1956. This facsimile is probably the most ambitious and possibly the most beautiful of all the Trust's undertakings. A subsidy from Mellon made it possible to sell the facsimiles at roughly one third of its cost.

The edition published in 1972 comprised 36 copies of a deluxe edition, 220 copies of a standard edition, and 132 sets unbound in a morocco portfolio—the prices £950, £640 and £620 respectively. This is one of the greatest bargains on the market—less than £6 a plate.

Quaritch have handled the distribution of most of the books. Still in print and available from them are: *The Book of Ahab* at £32, the 25 colour plates of the Caniffie version of *Jerusalem* at £130, the "Rind" monochrome *Jerusalem* (101 plates) at £15, *All Religions are One* (10 plates) at £18, *There is No Natural Religion* (21 plates) at £35.

Maggs are handling the *Illustrations of Dante*, the project on which Blake was working at the time of his death. In addition to facsimiles of the seven superb engravings—perhaps Blake's finest—there are three facsimiles of early states and reproductions of Blake's watercolour designs; the price is £185. The special edition with a modern printing from one of Blake's original plates is also available (£775).

Either book dealer would no doubt be prepared to find copies of the facsimiles that are now out of print for anyone who is interested.

Gerakline Norman
Salerno Correspondent

Clive Barnes/New York notebook

A gala to end an era

Love and gratitude almost cascaded from the chandeliers at the Metropolitan Opera House the other night where the American Ballet Theatre officially celebrated its fortieth anniversary with a special, a very special, gala. This brought together a prince's ransom of dancers from Ballet Theatre's past, present and even future, for one of the dancers, Alexander Gudunov, was making his New York debut with the company. Another of the dancers, John Curry, although probably the world's greatest ice-dancer is not likely to seek work on dry land.

Forty years is not particularly long in the history of human affairs—but for American arts institutions it tends to be quite a long distance of time and considering the difficulties encountered, economic and artistic, it can be quite a marathon. This year American Ballet Theatre, one of the indisputably great classic ballet companies of the world—it is generally ranked in the top six—has reached its fortieth year.

The true mystique of this gala—and Ballet Theatre gives sales with the unabashed ease of a grand duchess giving a garden party—is that it marks the imminent farewell of Lucia Chase and Oliver Smith as the company's artistic directors. The company was the brainchild of a young man called Richard Pleasant, who in 1939 persuaded Lucia Chase, dancer and ballet mistress, to transfer the already existing Mordkin Ballet, directed by the old Russian ballet-master and former partner of Pavlova, Mikhail Mordkin, into something much larger and grander. It was his idea to form a new national gallery of the dance, combining the best of the old with the best of the new.

This was a classic gala, arranged with the same quiet invention and style by Broadway's Donald Saddler, himself a member of the very first Ballet Theatre Company. Very sensibly, the programme—which normally was unusually long—was never allowed to become a popularity contest between fans, as each dance was permitted only one curtain call, and the whole thing ticked away as stylishly as a swiss chronometer. Saddler should be invited to put the Oscars on TV—7m perfectly serious because only he and Alexander Cohen, who handles the Tony Awards, seem to understand the kind of programming needed to prevent artists getting sleepy.

A celebration is not a time for critical comment—as the artists were giving their services, while the event produced a beautifully fat \$415,000 gross for Ballet Theatre coffers. The first three of the brief, but handsomely satisfying performances commemorated three of the greatest partnerships in the company's history. Irina Baranova, sadly marking her first appearance on an American stage since a ridiculously early retirement as a dancer in 1946 at the age of 26, and the eternal Anton Dolin, recreating, very wittily, a great scene from Fokine's *Bluebird*, provided the voice from the farthest past.

Also the partnerships of Alicia Alonso and Igor Youskevitch in *Giselle*, and Carla

Fracci and Erik Bruhn in *La Sylphide* must also have been particularly moving for the senior members of the Ballet Theatre audience. It was also particularly pleasant to welcome back even briefly, the company's two great prodigal daughters (prodigal in their genius even more than in their absence), Celine Kirkland, partnered by Anthony Dowell, and Cynthia Gregory, in the Rose adagio from *The Sleeping Beauty*.

There were so many other returns, Toni Lander and Bruce Marks, another great partnership, back in *The Moor's Pavane*, Rudolf Nureyev, squiring La Fracci (shouldn't she be called La Fraccinella now?) in *Giselle*, and the fantastically indestructible Alonso, brilliant in her bits from *Giselle*, and dancing a romantic pas de deux by Alberto Mendes, *La Peri* accompanied by her new partner, Jorge Asquível. Like Nureyev and Equivel, Marcia Haydée and Richard Cragun have never, unfortunately for us, been regular members of the company, but always welcome guests. Here they danced a pas de deux by the late John Cranko called *Homage to Lucia*, a handsome piece of Bolshoi-style bravura, here danced to Glazunov, but which we have known, if my memory serves, in another musical context.

Every gala has to have a few surprises. Here we had Yoko Morishino and another favourite, Fernando Buñones dancing up a hurricane, making their New York debuts in Balanchine's *Tchaikovsky pas de deux*, and Gudunov's fantastically effective New York debut in the *Corsaire pas de deux* partnering an exultant Martine van Hamel in the beginning of what may well be yet another legendary Ballet Theatre partnership.

The only new work was Vincente Nebreda's fiendishly complex *Don Corbelle*, danced by Patrick Bissell and that Venezuelan firecracker, Zandra Rodriguez, a former alumna. Other alumni were Christine Sarry, partnered by ballet master Terry Orr, and Ivan Nagy, that princely prince, partnering Natalia Makarova in the Adagio from *Swan Lake*.

One misses so many out of these occasions, but we also had Eleanor d'Amboise in excerpts from *Coppelia* partnered by the assistant director, Enrique Martinez. Then another *bonne-bouche*, Celine and Dowell, they were properly sound like a vaudeville team, did their familiar Peter Gennaro routine, *Top Hat and Tails*. This time a third member had gotten into the act—a diminutive Markovna, dashing around, keeping up with the boys, and proving what a great cabaret act they could have if stages crumble and ice melts.

Chase, Smith and Tudor are not going to disappear into the woodwork. You never really walk away from the most important 40 years of your life. Baryshnikov will, hopefully, bring new energy to the company. He is young and brilliant, and he has a great team of dancers with him. But let us trust that he will never forget that the past is the future's most important present. So on with the party, and the next 40 years.

Odd omissions. There was not one excerpt from the man who has been the company's principal choreographer for 40 years, Antony Tudor. No appearance by Mikhail Baryshnikov, the new artistic director, in succession to Lucia Chase and Oliver Smith. Had I been him I would have travelled around the world and back just to have presented Lucia with a bouquet of red roses at the end. If he feared he might have upstaged her, he needn't have worried. In fact the flowers were presented by Tudor.

It was of course a night belonging truly to Chase and Smith. Jerome Robbins said some apt and warming things about Smith, and Agnes de Mille said some equally apt and charming things about Chase.

And there Chase and Smith were, surrounded by their two extended families, their company and their audience. The company set out to be a national gallery of the dance with a specifically international accent. Despite its title it is, no more American than the Metropolitan Museum of Art or the Metropolitan Opera. Off the excerpts, out of 19 only one. A moment, literally from *Fancy Free* had been created specifically for the company: of the 36 principal dancers appears, only 17 were American-born, and few of them were making the big splash.

This is an international company, unique and tremendous. One of the great companies of the world. What must Lucia Chase have thought standing on that stage, all alone at last, holding red roses while stage-side confetti fluttered from above? Whatever she thought, I cannot imagine it had much to do with retirement. She scarcely is a retiring person. De Mille described her as "90 per cent granite"—but the Agnes is given to understatement.

Whatever happens in the future, this season we are seeing the last of Ballet Theatre as we have known it for 40 years—or in my own case 34 since its first appearance in London—and nothing is going to be quite the same again. Whatever anyone imagines, Chase, Smith and Tudor are not going to disappear into the woodwork. You never really walk away from the most important 40 years of your life. Baryshnikov will, hopefully, bring new energy to the company. He is young and brilliant, and he has a great team of dancers with him. But let us trust that he will never forget that the past is the future's most important present. So on with the party, and the next 40 years.

The Chess and Confronting columns have been held over because of lack of space...

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Fred Emery

Why all the surprise at a British success?

Perhaps the world did admire
British daring in the embassy
rescue... but it was hardly for our
leaders to wallow in it

The present Government is no exception to the rule of rulers down the ages in using, or allowing, foreign diversions to distract their peoples from home concerns. Mrs Thatcher's tactics in defying our EEC partners over the British budget contribution and then appearing to savour the jingoism at the bashing she had given them is the obvious example.

But so, too—although right here at home—was the excessive and indulgent celebration among many Tory politicians and newspapers over the ending of the Iranian Embassy siege in London. No one could fail to be relieved that the SAS raid "worked" in rescuing the hostages without further loss of their lives. It was marvellous that brave and skilled men had luck on their side. But with the failure of the police tactics of waiting it out, there was the horror of death in that embassy, a reality the live television coverage could not convey.

Some of the subsequent celebration made it seem as if we had won a war. Perhaps the world did admire British daring, but it was hardly for our leaders to flout it and wallow in it. We have forgotten that many people overseas still would have expected us to have succeeded in such a venture. They may be guilty of not having caught up with our own diminished regard for British capabilities. But they will be surprised that so many

of our politicians were surprised that we could actually get something right for a change. It is in that sense that we betray a lack of self-confidence or willingness to be diverted into believing—as Mrs Thatcher has put it into the heads of some of her neo-jingoist backbenchers—that "we really do count on the world scene" again. The short answer is that our standing is about where it has been for a couple of decades, with some chance of re-impressing people if we ever get our house in order.

It is from consideration of this that things have lately been diverted. My reference here is not to the rogues' first one put across Sir Keith Joseph by Lord Fraser in the appointment of Mr Ian MacGregor to be chairman of British Steel Corporation. That little deal will raise backsides again this week in both Lords and Commons without now changing the certainty of the appointment.

No, what has passed with less notice than it ought to have been given is the calibre of a fine past week's Conservative challenge to the Government's economic policy. This is not a question of mini-revolts and gestures. It is the re-emergence into the open of serious reservations, each time better argued, that the Government may kill off the economy before it can cure it; in the old phrase that "monetarism is not enough".

It has been known for some time that a majority in the Cabinet were unhappy with the rigour of policy application, but that they were stumped because they had no alternative, or were not prepared to argue for one.

That, by all accounts, is still the case, with the most optimistic of Cabinet dissenters still believing that they will not have to duck brickbats for another year or so. But outside the Cabinet, it is the senior backbenchers who have again become most restive, usually so considering that the Government was still last week trying to celebrate its first anniversary in office.

The critics should not be seen as proxies for Cabinet dissenters; their own self-esteem is too great for that. Nor could such an assortment in any sense be seen as slavish followers

of Mr Edward Heath. They include former frontbenchers in Opposition like Mr Peter Tapsell, and former Ministers like Mr Geoffrey Rippon, Mr Terence Higgins and, above all, Mr Edward du Cann.

No one has ever accused Mr du Cann of disloyalty to his leaders; indeed because he is chairman of the 1922 Committee of all Conservative backbenchers they might not dare do so. But it is in his new position as chairman of the Select Committee of the Treasury and the Civil Service that Mr du Cann is causing the sharpest problem for the Government.

Indeed, in spite of two powerful speeches on successive days by Mr Denis Healey, emphasising that he has no equal in the Labour Party in backing the Government, Mr du Cann who in a new sense is becoming "shadow" Chancellor.

Of course Treasury Ministers can instantly quote the praise Mr du Cann has given and still gives for the Thatcher economic strategy; and the Budget. But, with the ammunition provided by the Select Committee's impressive array of economic advisers, his challenges penetrate the way the Government is going about

The opening barrage was in the Committee's examination of the Chancellor in open session a few weeks ago; the Committee then went over the top, coming out of the trenches, as it were, with its report a week ago challenging all the Government's assumptions about public spending.

But Mr du Cann on Wednesday in the Commons had the Government virtually surrounded. He said the committee's reservations taken together were "so formidable as to suggest that the whole strategy may be at risk unless there are variations in policy". He went on to tell Sir Geoffrey: "This country's industrial decline is not being arrested or reversed; it is continuing. In all seriousness I say to my right honourable and learned friend that deflation must not be pushed too far, in case it does incalculable harm".

Mr du Cann and the others wanted changes. They found unacceptable the prospective rise in unemployment to over 23 million; they want interest rates brought down. In the light of

the 25 per cent increase in the Government's pay bill for central government employees this year Mr du Cann wants real staff cuts, and not always cuts in services; he wants an end to cuts in capital expenditure. He is unlikely to be impressed with the next civil service cut to be announced on Monday by the Prime Minister.

The critics would be the first to agree that all this does not add up to an "alternative" economic policy. And so far, they agree, there is little sign of the Prime Minister's group of economic ministers surrendering.

However, the critics will no longer have it that there is simply no alternative to what the Government is doing. They will insist that in shifting seas the Government can and must make course corrections to avert catastrophe. Never mind the jeering about U-turns, the Government is not press ahead blindly into the storm.

The upshot is far from clear. The last time Mr du Cann and the 1922 Committee demanded action, just before Christmas, Mrs Thatcher obliged with yet another round of spending cuts. Whether she would be amenable to a different shift, perhaps even considering a wage freeze in extremis, is quite another question. For the moment, no doubt we all shall be diverted by the next national triumph of overcoming May 14, but the problem will still be there afterwards.

The Brixton plot thrives

Any motorist who has seen ageing orange Mini travel south through London's streets, hoes and other spite agrarian implements stick out of a back window should not go in fear of an imminent mechanized peasants' revolt, was only me.

The Ministry of Agriculture recently announced that allotment craze is on the wane. The reason? It is not that their minds lack to those of when The Times led the way with the doings on a cery Brixton plot.

With Michael Leasman New York had the horse-fairy broken through at night? Ask? Fiddle-fall, those journalists. All very Leasman writing about snipe in Brooklyn or where? Damned unparliamentary.

Not so. The Brixton plot lives. The brave sight of a Mini disappearing through traffic is proof. While Leasman messes with fancy New American things Brixton under firm stewardship is his reward.

It was not always so. I successful indoor cultivation the odd cactus or geranium no preparation for genuine gumboot and man gardening. Since there was shed available, lugging to down five figures of soil cramping them into a car, a smiling nervously at pass policemen somehow sage endeavour.

Vegetable gardening course has an aura of something about it. It is difficult to visualize Percy Thrower as a greengrocer. But Reynolds there is that "I can grow better onions than you can spirit, that competitive edge. The voice who sits down on a hand of rubbish tip and thrust through his newly purchased guide to better vegetables like a gunslinger with a pistol, not serious.

Despair set in. So did I. I was only a warm from the Thames Water Board that they would reclaim a land in a month which saw the day. It was a very 'wa' June that year.

Clear and turned, the grow looked lavishing again. A tomato, radishes, lettuce about half a ton of hor manure later things were looking up. A shed was even in the service walked with a fit bit of a swag.

That was when the "accrator" identified himself. One had objected to the publicity the plot had received. The acculturator was very fit to be the acculturator but there was one small bit to be picked. After The Times announced the end for a plot, the law was London the water board put them up. Mr Leasman was America, was he...

Last summer was wet, war and wonderful. The first strawberry, without a cloche, was ready in May. The first tomato were not big but they were onions. On the basis of nothing ventured nothing gained that were several subterranean plant pumpkins, green peppers and strange plant which show her produced gherkins.

The melon was a bit small it is true but perhaps golfball melons are the thin of the future. If on the other hand anyone is thinking of pumpkins bear in mind the can grow along the ground if 15ft or more and remember that growing a 25lb pumpkin is one thing, leaving what to do with it is another.

This year there will be more careful husbandry and less "stick it in and see what comes up" technique. The scallot gherkin plant turned out well more pumpkins. But by the time the water board came to a conclusion of gardeners on a Sunday morning—they were already pickled.

Stewart Tendler



Arsenal triumphant after last year's FA Cup win over Manchester United: Sammy Nelson holds the trophy aloft.

Sportview

All of a sudden it's the Final

A football club's third consecutive appearance in an FA Cup Final is remarkable in these days of arduously long seasons. Arsenal today embelish that achievement by arriving at Wembley with all of last season's winning side still together. If he wished, the manager could name an unchanged team after a full year's activity. Some members of his profession are relieved to make that announcement on successive Saturdays.

A year is a long adventure in the life of a football team or individual member. In the case of Nottingham Forest the 12 months after the finish of the 1977 season marked elevation from being third in the second division to the league championship title and a place in Europe. Conversely, I suppose that a year represents about a third of the average manager's expected term of office or a tenth of a player's career. Within that time a successful team will play some 70 matches.

Today's final represents Arsenal's 26th cup tie of the season including those three colossal replays against Liverpool. Three different knockout competitions have taken them far and wide, from Cardiff to Weyford, Goteborg to Turin and Turkey. How different from 1950 when they played all seven of their FA Cup ties in London, four at Highbury, a semi-final and replay against Chelsea at Tottenham and the final against Liverpool at

Wembley where they won, 2-0. For a time it seemed that the protracted semi-final would cause the final to be postponed, a prospect that alarmed the Football Association. As it was the proximity of the semi-final to the final caused problems, not least to the Wembley authorities who lost thousands of pounds in advance programme sales. A more aesthetically irritating aspect of the all too sudden arrival of the special day is simply that; its inordinate suddenness.

Even without extended semi-finals, the days of that expectation lull between the end of the league season and the final seem to be over. That was the time to savour the prospect. Nowadays even some of the players say that the final is just one more match, although one must add that so many finals have been dishevelled by nervous tension that this may not be bad thing for the game itself.

Had the semi-final between Arsenal and Liverpool gone to a fourth replay the situation

would have been even more absurd. However, it has become clear that the Football Association would not have permitted a fifth, which both clubs said should be allowed if the deadlock continued. While the players and spectators were game to continue well into the summer, the authorities had seen enough to convince them that administratively and competitively the situation was approaching farce.

The clubs concerned were left in no doubt that if a fourth replay did not produce an opponent for West Ham United some form of "udden death" elimination would have to be applied. As it was the tie ended at the third replay but still left an unbearably scramble to prepare for today's final. In theory the month between the semi-finals and Wembley is ample, but in these hectic times the chances are that one or other club will have rearranged league matches and European games to pack into that period. In

deed, Arsenal still have two league games to play as well as a European Cup Winners' Cup final. However distasteful the continental idea of ties being decided by penalty kicking competitions, this is surely preferable to the erosion of the Cup Final as one of the sporting year's national occasions. A personal view is that only one replay need be permitted throughout.

Somewhere in these fears for the quality of the occasion possibly lurks the thought that the Cup Final rarely produces an outstanding game of football. Thus, anticipation is arguably two thirds of the event. One recalls that last season's final produced drama in the last minutes yet it was a poor match in terms of skill and enduring entertainment. Other memorable finals do not bear too close examination for technical merit. Even in 1953 when Mortenson scored three goals and Matthews wrote another page of his legend the match was marred by injury. Thirty years before that the first Wembley final became folklore when the pitch had to be cleared for West Ham and Bolton Wanderers but many of the vast crowd later admitted that in their albeit restricted view the game itself was far less dramatic than the occasion. The Cup Final is not just another match.

Norman Fox

How daunting Dr French deals with Dolores

When Dr Marilyn French first tackled *The Woman's Room* she was a postgraduate student with two children and a husband. That was 1957. She gave it up after a couple of drafts. Then with the late sixties and the women's movement came the vocabulary to finish it and the audience to understand it. By then the world was full of other women who shared her basic tenet: that the world is a painful place and that in it women, not men, do the suffering.

The Woman's Room had the most satisfactory of successes: largely massacred by critics, not particularly promoted by its publishers, it took a month to reach the best selling lists. Once there it stayed on it for 18 months. It has now sold well over three million copies.

Before it was out Marilyn French was already at work on *The Bleeding Heart*, published on Thursday. It promises to follow its predecessor straight up the ladder to success. Dolores (dolor, pain; durere, endure), is an older, more static heroine than earlier Mira; here are the battles of adulthood, not the turmoil of growth. Dr French is a divorced professor of Renaissance literature at a suburban in Oxford to research a book: *Lot's Wife: a study in the identification of women with suffering*.

On a train back from London to her Oxford flat she picks up a man, Victor Morrissey is also American; in England for a year to open a branch office. They get off the train, walk to her flat, and go to bed together. All this has happened by page 42. For the rest of the book, 412 pages, with flashbacks, Dolores debates her quandary, the womanhood of womanhood; how to square her pleasure in Victor with her anger about the crushed role played by women in the male supremacist world that Victor embodies.

Dr French is not easy to talk to. She is a big woman with a round inscrutable face and a voice that is a mixture of twelve years a college teacher, she is used to students. Questions seem a little impertinent. She was in London this week to promote her book, having come from Paris and bound for Australia and New Zealand. Her list of appointments, many neatly typed pages, lies by her side. She seems to expect idiocies.

She wouldn't talk about her life, or herself, saying that in past interviews too much has been disclosed. It was earlier, and a helpful publisher's notes that I dis-



Dr Marilyn French: now men write to her...

covered that she grew up in New York, that her family was poor and Polish, that she married before she graduated, gave birth to a son and a daughter (both now "feminist and whole") and that she returned to finish her studies in English literature, ending up with fellowships at Harvard.

Her marriage was a disaster. "When I think of living with a man again," she has told one interviewer, "I have the same nightmare of being back living with my husband, and I think 'O God, I've married him again'".

Dr French will, however, discuss women and her novels, talking of her characters disconcertingly as if they were about to enter the room. She had trouble with Dolores, she says. People are over-herosine who never threaten men directly. Literary convention boxes women into three roles. They can be victims, with suffer patiently, and with whom the reader feels sympathy. They can be vicious—but only if their victory is carried out with love

and thereby innocuous. That reflects 400 years of women caught in the deplorable. Or they can be full blown victims, women like Anna Karenina who die for their passions."

The Woman's Room turned Dr French into a cult. It took her from a 10,000 dollar a year teaching job to a duplex in Manhattan and a condominium in Florida and it earned her an enormous, growing fan mail. In the months, after publication every letter came from a woman. Recently, men have taken to writing to her. Their letters fall, says Dr French, into two categories. There are those who say "my wife got me to read your book and now I understand much more."

"The worst was when a man wrote and said that his wife had just died, and that her last words to him were: 'Go. Looked lavishing again. A tomato, radishes, lettuce about half a ton of hor manure later things were looking up. A shed was even in the service walked with a fit bit of a swag.'

Dr French is not a modest woman. "That is why I write books," she told someone not long ago, in the hope that my writing will feminize the world for the next millennium." Her next book is a diagnosis of western thought, starting with Shakespeare, and it will "show why our thinking is humane and how we should change it." But she is immensely dogged—she returns *The Bleeding Heart* six times with an exhausting hammering style that is full of brutality and energy.

Dolores, fighting a horrendous inner battle between integrity and accommodation, snarling, prickly, shrewish, is a daunting woman. So is Dr French, with her philosophical ferocity about misogyny. She is often right, of course. The trouble is that the world seems a more haphazard, chaotic place, fuller of comedy, generosity, than Dr French makes it.

When she gets Dolores to say: "She'd noticed herself feeling strange things lately—that odd attraction to crippled men... thinking that crippled men suffered as women suffer, that they must be more human than the rest," she is not making her sympathetic, only irritating. What that where the reader falls into the trap. Dolores is not meant to be sympathetic. The world has to be educated to accept women who do not laugh at themselves. Why should they? There is no such conviction.

The Bleeding Heart, by Marilyn French, Andre Deutsch £6.50.

Caroline Moorehead

Grand Metropolitan Limited ADJOURNMENT OF EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

In the light of the recently announced plans of Standard Brands Incorporated to make a cash tender offer for up to 45 per cent of the Common Stock of Liggett Group Inc. ("Liggett"), the Directors of Grand Metropolitan Limited ("Grand Metropolitan") announce that at the Extraordinary General Meeting of Grand Metropolitan to be held on 12 May, 1980 to consider Grand Metropolitan's proposed acquisition of Liggett it will be proposed that the meeting should be adjourned to a date to be fixed at the meeting

A Hercules of the RAF has been dropping the first of 5,000 tonnes of wheat to Britain to come of the poorest of Nepal's peasants now facing a serious starvation risk in the far north and west of the Himalayan kingdom due to drought.

There is a shortfall on the last monsoon harvest amounting to 760,000 tonnes and the two million Nepalese living in those mountainous regions—going up to 12,000 ft and even more—are the most vulnerable. Roughly 80 per cent of Nepal's 14 million population customarily goes underfed at the best of times but this year the chronically deteriorating food situation as Nepal is less and less able each year to feed itself has reached crisis proportion in two of the remotest regions from Kathmandu.

The RAF has under one month before this year's monsoon rains come. They will make, Wing Commander Michael Watkins from headquarters 38 group, RAF Up-avon, Wiltshire, told me, the already difficult food dropping conditions impossible and then as many as 250,000 hardy Himalayan peasants could die.

The United Nations world food programme is seeking to organise the estimated 100,000 metric tons the Nepalese government has said must now come from abroad. A quarter

may come as a loan from neighbouring India, but grain sacks have been held up at Gorakhpur as Indians protested many villages are facing starvation themselves in Mrs Gandhi's home state of Uttar Pradesh.

Britain is the only country helping in its own donation through West Germany and France are among the other wheat donors to Nepal.

After the Hercules drops the wheat the urgent need is to get the grain up to the hill villages; smaller aircraft can go to some air strips but chiefly porters will carry the sacks up mountain tracks on their backs, eating enough to feed themselves on the way.

It is no accident the situation is worst in the farthest and highest corner of Nepal: it is exactly where the denudation of forests and the sweeping away of arable land on sheer mountain sides over the past two decades has gone with an almost doubling of the population in the same period.

The Briton who probably sees the consequences of this sharp rise is Mr Dudley Spain, director of Save the Children fund in Nepal.

With the mountain peasant women and their sickly babies already starting to trek in hope of finding food, he told me: "Nepal is a slow disaster zone, a permanently worsening

problem, not a one-shot emergency which we have to fight."

At Surkhet in the far west Save the Children has set up one of the three clinics it has in rural Nepal, trying to teach illiterate mothers even the elements of motherhood as the "avalanche" of Nepal's rural

'Nepal is a slow disaster zone, a permanently worsening problem, not a one-shot emergency'

population, no longer able even to find a subsistence level existence, slides close to the fertile Kathmandu valley.

But only if individual donors are willing to contribute to an investment fund, on the lines of the famous Curkha welfare fund benefitting those returning from serving in the British Army, can he hope, he says, that their work will not be inundated or finally swept away.

Even more than Bangladesh perhaps, Nepal has failed to create an infrastructure needed to achieve the level of economic development for its growing population. Mr Robert McNamara, president of the World

Bank, has just been on a fortnight trekking holiday in eastern Nepal after promising King Birendra that international assistance will be forthcoming for Nepal's sixth five-year plan starting in July, 60 per cent of whose outlay is marked down for foreign funding.

Mr McNamara often visits Nepal but as the country's grain distribution figure per capita goes downwards year by year he must be baffled about just what to do.

The Chinese, the Americans, the Russians, and the British have all built the Nepalese their highways and maintained them for years, then the Nepalese either do not have the funds, or will not find the energy, to take on the task themselves. Stretches of the road from Kathmandu to Pokhara, Nepal's second city, now require outright rebuilding.

It is the height of paradox that a third Briton, Mr John Sanday, London architect and conservator, now trying to save something in Nepal—the rich heritage of historic buildings in the Kathmandu valley—may be the most successful. After restoring the Hanuman Dhoka royal palace in the capital for King Birendra's 1975 coronation, he now has charge of a list of seven sites recognised under the World Heritage Fund for monuments in danger.

Nepal is supposed to find 21 per cent of the funds for the Kathmandu valley conservator project and guarantee the money will be found under the sixth plan because of tourism.

But Mr Sanday, a UNESCO adviser, argues it must be for today's mass tourism coming from the United States, Japan and West Germany to start paying for the upkeep of among more than 800 ancient monuments in the valley. Till now they only pay to visit the restored royal palace.

These often elderly tourists have overwhelmed the hippies who first made Kathmandu popular and their unimaginative lower middle-class tastes underline the unparalleled prosperity of Chicago, Tokyo, or Hamburg. They are sadly on a few tourists who genuinely come to see Nepal's cultural heritage. Nepal has simply been fitted in on the way to or from Bangkok to benefit Kathmandu's influential tourist industry.

That industry is a faithful reflection of the whole country's development since Nepal was opened to the outside world less than 30 years ago. Some one must start caring about the whole nation's future. But it is good to be able to report there are at least three Britons who do care about Nepal.

Richard Wigg



THE RIGHT STRATEGY

This week's debate in the House of Commons on the Government's expenditure plans for the next four years turned into a debate on the whole of the Government's economic strategy. That debate took place in a much more informed environment because of the work of the Treasury and Civil Service Committee of the House of Commons, which has been studying both the expenditure plans and the Government's medium-term financial strategy.

The Committee's report raises a number of important questions about the economic assumptions which underlie the Government's strategy and about the likely performance of the economy. But it would be wrong to conclude that the Committee's work suggests that the Government's strategy is ill-conceived.

That strategy rests in the last analysis on only one set of figures: the planned reduction in the growth of the money supply over the next four years to an annual rate somewhere in the range of four to eight per cent. Governments are responsible for the issue of money and can control its rate of growth. It is thus within their power, if they have the will, to ensure that a target which they set themselves is actually met. In the debates in the Commons no one put forward a serious alternative to the view that a steady reduction in the rate of increase in the money supply is the only way to achieve the reduction in inflation which is needed to lay the basis for sustainable growth. The doubts concentrate on other matters: for Government revenue and expenditure over the next four years and the probable movements of output and unemployment which have been assumed.

DR RUNCIE, I PRESUME?

A meeting between Pope and Archbishop of Canterbury is, happily, no longer an extraordinary event. It is now more naturally undertaken and easily accomplished than a meeting between the President of the United States and Chairman of the Praesidium of the Soviet Union. Ecclesiastical détente is in the better shape. The symbolism of yesterday's meeting is more striking in its place than its occurrence. Both religious leaders were by coincidence in West Africa, on pastoral business. They were visiting a continent in which the missionary work of their churches has been long, extensive and fruitful, and where a high degree of responsibility for African Christianity has now devolved upon African Christians. It is a field where Christian disunity or rivalry seems particularly irrelevant. Much of the early impetus for ecumenism came from the missions, and that influence persists. As the Pope and the Archbishop said in their short public statement, there are immense opportunities for the Christian churches in Africa and the time is too short and the need too pressing to waste Christian energy pursuing old rivalries.

The opportunities are not merely for the further conversion of paganism, though the scope for that is large; nor for containing the sometimes exaggerated inroads of Islam in that continent. The opportunities are more of a qualitative kind: to foster a culturally authentic African variety of Christianity. In long-gestating African Christianity is now

It is important to make clear the different status of the various figures which are contained in the Government's projections for the period in question. Government targets are, or ought to be, commitments which ministers and their departments intend to meet. Forecasts have a different and altogether less certain status. For example, the likely revenue which the Government will obtain from North Sea oil depends upon the future pattern of production in the North Sea, the world price of oil and the movements of the sterling exchange rate against the dollar.

The Treasury Committee has pointed out that the Government's estimates of the revenue which it is likely to obtain are considerably lower than those made by most outside economic forecasters. On the other hand, the Treasury forecasts of Government revenues from the non-oil sector of the economy are rather higher than the consensus of outside predictions would suggest. The detailed criticisms of both these elements in the Government's predictions of the future have considerable force, but they cancel each other out. Critics who argue that the Government is overestimating its likely revenue from the non-oil sector tend also to suggest that it is being too cautious about its likely oil revenues.

What matters is the extent to which the overall balance of expenditure and taxation is credible; and here the Government's critics have not made a clear case for believing that the Government plans are not as close to an honest central estimate as we can reasonably get.

But doubts about this are bound to remain while the Government persists in trying to be half open and half secretive

about its forecasts for the future. It would have been better for the Chancellor to spell out in much greater detail the basis on which his estimates of revenue and expenditure are formed, together with the very large margins of error to which all such forecasts are subject. By refusing to do so he has naturally reinforced the arguments of pessimists who believe that he has something to hide.

The same argument does not apply to the Government's assumption that the economy will grow at one per cent a year from 1981 onwards. The Chancellor was right to stress that this is merely an assumption, rather than a forecast or a target. Forecasts of economic growth over a period of three years are notoriously unreliable. There is even less sense in seeking to make a specific rate of growth the target of Government policy. For the rate of growth of the economy and the level of unemployment which we face depends on something which is entirely outside the Government's control and which is not amenable to the techniques of economic forecasting. It depends on the speed with which the British people learn the implications of an economic strategy which puts the fight against inflation first.

If wage negotiators adjust quickly, there is no reason why the Chancellor's assertion that the Government's assumption is cautious should not be borne out. If the adjustment comes more slowly, the loss in output which we face during the adjustment process will be greater and the suffering in unemployment will be more severe. But if that turns out to be the case, the fault will lie not with the Government's strategy but with those who fail to recognize the economic realities which underlie it.

generation polygamy, an adaptation that would afford much local relief in some parts of Africa.

As on his other tours the Pope's very presence had a palpable effect on the many who thronged to see him. He frequently restated and enlarged on the message he gave at the outset of his pontificate to the Latin American congress at Puebla in Mexico. A respect for human dignity is of the essence of evangelism. This requires of the Christian a social as well as a personal morality. It leads him also into political action since social morality can be made effective only on the basis of justice: just laws, just institutions, just distribution. To act politically the Christian has no need to borrow or lean on secular ideologies. On the contrary, those invariably deny and diminish the full human dignity to which the gospel ministers.

Thus the Pope makes orthodox the thrust of "liberation theology", and he indicated its application in post-colonial Africa when he said that "political independence and national sovereignty demand that there be also economic independence and freedom from ideological domination. The situation of some countries can be profoundly conditioned by the decisions of other powers". That points the way to a congenial programme for the nascent African churches. It does not mean to trips with the more difficult and in the long run more important question of cultural adaptation of the Christian faith in that continent.

minism to mention Libya as sharing "the serious danger" of "assassinating its enemies". The latest instance of this happened the other day, as I was passing by a quiet Kensington quarter where I lived long ago. Here, in this hitherto quiet and law-abiding part of Chelsea, we seek your aid in broadcasting a Mayday signal on the same theme.

We have in Gledbe Place a disused local school building which is now ILEA which stands back like a fortress, and was indeed used in a similar role as an air raid wardens' post in which I served during the blitz. It is at the centre of a web of narrow, crooked one-way streets through which approach could readily be barred in an emergency. Not unnaturally this ready-made strongpoint has attracted the Libyan Government who, through intermediary company, have persuaded the naive and cash-hungry ILEA to sell it to them as the highest bidder, ostensibly as a school for Libyan and other Islamic children, but in reality a virtually non-existent in the neighbourhood.

We locals, knowing the situation and reading your newspaper, are better informed than ILEA and not so gullible. Subsequent events have opened many more eyes to the dangers which we pointed out weeks ago. Will you please, Sir, follow up your timely Mayday warning by urging our stalwart Foreign Secretary to include among his immediate measures, to remind the Libyan Government of our abhorrence for their barbarian claims and actions in London, the immediate revocation of this foolish transaction, even if a clause in emergency legislation is needed to cancel the misuse of its powers by ILEA and to divert this key site to a use appropriate to the local community and to the historic environment in which it is situated.

Yours faithfully,
MAX NICHOLSON,
13 Upper Cheyne Row, SW3.
May 7.

School sold to Libyans

From Mr Max Nicholson
Sir, In your admirable "May Day" editorial (May 6) you aptly dignified from your great theme of the significance of international militant com-

reached—it must quite simply be rejected.

I believe the Westminster Hospital is outstanding in respect of the skill, morale and dedication of the medical and nursing staff. I should expect there to be a connection between the quality of the hospital staff and the quality of the hospital school, and to fact Professor Crisp speaks of the medical school's "obviously excellent staff". A sense of identification of people at work with the organization as a whole is a quality which is something very important, not easily created, especially in large units of work, and—if undermined by reorganization—difficult to recreate.

The question of availability of resources must be taken more seriously than the theorizing about optimum size. The system for controlling public expenditure within the total set by the government of the day is now more effective than it was some years ago (though forward planning becomes increasingly difficult if cost inflation is not contained) but the procedures for determining relative priorities still represent one of the weaknesses of the public expenditure system. This is a particularly difficult aspect of the problem, but the system must surely be capable of something a little more selective than the kind of equality of misery which threatens to destroy the Westminster Hospital as we know it.

Yours sincerely,
LEO PLATZKY,
27 Riva Court,
Upper Ground, SE1.

Life under the Communists

From Mr George Theiner
Sir, What an incredible performance your "May Day" leader (May 6) has provided from Ms Diane Waller (May 5). To do it justice, her letter detailing the joys of life under communism would require a reply at least as long, taking her assertions point by point, but I have more regard for your space problems than to attempt any such thing. Let me just add her up on one or two main points.

It is perfectly true that "you can walk through the streets of Sofia... without fear of being mugged... without the presence of a vast police force". You will, let me add, also not find any pornography offered for sale in the same city (and in Moscow, Prague, Budapest, and so on). What Ms Waller does not seem to realize is that you will not find much worthwhile literature there either because the censorship which prevents the publication of pornography bans the majority of these countries' best authors, who either risk imprisonment by appearing in communist or are forced to emigrate. (The police, by the way, are there in force, but in mafia and they have other fish to fry.) It has also apparently not occurred to your correspondent that she would not be able to get a letter published in *Rodnicheske delo* (or *Pravda*, *Rubnovo*, etc.) drawing their readers' attention to the virtues of the American or British way of life.

There are always two ways of looking at an invasion. Indeed there are—there is the view from Moscow and that from Kabul (Budapest, Prague, Kanas, Tallinn, Riga), the aggressor's view and that of his victims. Ms Waller leaves us in no doubt that she prefers the former—as long as he does not happen to be American. From my own personal experience I can assure her that the victim's view is a much simpler one. I was just 11 when I saw German tanks invade Czechoslovakia, and in my childish eyes they had not come to "help" or "free" my country—they had violated it. No doubt I have failed to mature properly, since when I watched Soviet tanks rumbling into Prague in 1968, my impression was exactly the same. It made no difference whatever to the recipients of this "help" that

for arithmetic not uncommon among "European" students. The possible long-term reduced contribution by the UK to the EEC of £325m is 0.2 per cent of 1979 GDP, not 0.02 per cent. But since the proposal was only short-term, this is not the most relevant comparison. On present policies the cost is estimated to rise to 1 per cent of GDP by 1983. By that year our net contribution would be over 2 per cent of public expenditure. In 1979 it accounted for 40 per cent of the deficit in the current account of the balance of payments.

The solution for the inequity of our high payments does not lie in any short-term palliative, paid for by concessions on sheep and fish. It lies in a complete reform of the CAP, the system which increases domestic food prices, fails to benefit consumers from cheaper imports and finances surpluses for export sale to an unfriendly power. The EEC, spending 75 per cent of its revenue on farm support, should be renamed the EFC—the European Farmers' Council.

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the gun turrets were adorned with a five-pointed red star rather than the swastika.

Ms Waller talks of "these species" in Eastern Europe as if they had chosen the Soviet system voluntarily and not had it forced on them by a combination of trickery and brute force. Has she spoken to any Lithuanians, Latvians or Estonians lately? She writes of "a legacy of extreme poverty, illiteracy, disease...". Where—in Poland, Hungary, East Germany, Czechoslovakia?

As to the delicious, final statement that she is not "a dupe of Soviet tourist thought control"—since she seems to be trying so hard to "see the other fellow's point of view" (his pity he is a tyrant and aggressor with a penchant for annihilating freedom of expression wherever he can find it)—would she concede that there might be two ways of looking at this too?

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE THEINER,
27 Rockall Close,
Haverhill,
Suffolk.
May 8.

From Dr H. R. Vickers
Sir, We will be most grateful to Ms Diane Waller if she will explain to simple people why the favoured citizens of the communist bloc countries are not allowed to free travel to the West to tell us all of the advantages of their system of government. We would also be interested to know why scholars from the West are not allowed to discuss such subjects as Aristotle in private.

Yours faithfully,
H. R. VICKERS,
The Old Smiddy,
Little Milton,
Oxford.

From Mrs Marion Topolski

Sir, Thank you for publishing the letter from Ms Diane Waller (May 8); it goes some way to restoring my flagging belief in the integrity and value of your paper.

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From Mrs Marion Topols

Racing

Bath selections

By Michael Seely

1.15 Jenny Barco. 2.45 Horncastle. 3.15 Setting Trick. 3.45 HAREBELL is specially recommended. 4.15 Sharp Fiddle. 4.45 High Gait.

By Our Newmarket Correspondent

1.15 Jenny Barco. 2.45 Horncastle. 3.15 Miss Raffles. 3.45 Bawdsey. 4.15 Sharp Fiddle. 4.45 Morgan's Pearl.

Birmingham
The young Warwickshire batsmen, Smith and Claughton, made the most of a stalemate by scoring centuries against Somerset. Willis continued the innings with a brace, before declaring at 330 runs, two and asking Somerset to score 339 in 85 minutes.

[illegible]

BOWLING: O'Leary 17-51; Howel 17-51; Parnell 16-50; Wincer 18-51; Anderson 19-50; Barnett 19-50; Kasten 6-49.

Umpires: A. Jopson and C. T. Spencer.

CAPTAINING: Surry II 198 and 245 (N. Kempie for #1); Kent I 248 and 250 (C. S. Cowdrey 106). Kent II was by C. S. Cowdrey 106.

BOWLING: Howel 17-51; Parnell 16-50; Wincer 18-51; Anderson 19-50; Barnett 19-50; Kasten 6-49.

Umpires: D. Oslar and T. W. Spencer.

LEADS: Yorkshire II 271 and 242 for 5 dec 15; D. Love 134; Nottinghamshire II 250 for 7 dec and 134 for 1.

Ayr selections
 by Michael Seely
 30 Clear, 3.0 Zephyrus, 3.30 Emperor's Shadow, 4.0 HARDY TURN
 specially recommended, 4.30 Rome Ground, 5.0 Drosnefs.
 by Our Newmarket Correspondent
 30 Clear, 3.0 Zephyrus, 4.30 Atlantic City, 5.0 Drosnefs.

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

Salem Prince, 6-10-1	H. J. Byrne	023	Dublin, 6-11-7	
Starling, 7-10-1	W. D. Webb	105	Josiah Lad, 8-11-3	Smith Eccles
Stallionary, 7-10-0	J. J. Davies	301	Courant Chance, 9-11-2	
Norfolk, 6-10-0	Mr Revan			
Claver Prince, 5-10-0	Mr Price	-30	Newly, 7-10-12	Maddison
Bla Strong Boy, 7-10-0	Pamlet	014	Melody River, 7-10-11	Webber
1 Transience, 7-2 Falls Road, 4-2		111	The Vinegar Man, 4-10-8	Cowie
Legion, 6-1	John Johr.	non	10-10-8	G. Davis
Henry Nick 10-1 County Clare, 12-1		non	Tidal Wave, 8-10-5	Berry
		non	Autumn, 8-10-5	

45 SEAN GRAHAM HEREFORD CHASE (Hunters & Foxes)
 £1,130 : 3m 1f)

1 Sparkford 9-12-10 Mr Bryan
 2 Silver Ransome 11-12-7 Mrs Peck
 3 Teanyside 11 10-12-7

HEREFORD SELECTIONS: 2.15.
 African Vizion 2.45, French
 1.15, Hongkong 2.45, The
 1.15, Hongkong 2.45, The

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

Personal
investment and
finance,
pages 20 and 21

Stock markets

FT Ind 436.5, down 0.2
FT Alta 67.47, down 0.07

Sterling

\$2.2675, down 1.83 cents
Index 73.0, down 0.3

Dollar

Index 86.1, up 0.2
DM 1.8085, up 1.55 pfmg

Gold

\$512.50, down \$4

Money

3 mth sterling 17.4-17.6
3 mth Euro \$ 114-114
6 mth Euro \$ 114-114

Moves for private stake in BR offshoots

The Government will be presenting its formal proposals and legislation to Parliament this year to enable them to carry out their policy of inviting private capital to participate in the Sea Link, hotels and property sections of British Railways.

Mr Kenneth Clarke, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Transport, announced this in a short debate in the Commons yesterday. He said that the timetable for implementation of the policy would be "reasonably brisk" and there had been no difference of opinion between the Minister, Mr Norman Fowler, and Sir Peter Parker, the chairman of British Rail on the issue.

Continuing links between the railways and the various sections would be recognized in the Government's proposals.

Interest rate cut

The rate of interest on United Kingdom certificates of deposit used in payment of tax will be cut to 15.1 per cent from 15.2 per cent, the Treasury says. The present rate is 15 per cent.

Talbot strike ends

A strike which stopped production and put more than 3,000 men temporarily out of work at the Talbot car plant, Luton, is over. The men voted at a mass meeting to resume production on Monday.

Bill trend reversed

The recent downward trend in the Treasury Bill rate was reversed at yesterday's weekly tender, with the average rate of discount at which bills were allotted rising from 16.0105 to 16.1475 per cent.

Lloyds voting plan

Lloyds Bank is asking its shareholders to vote on a scheme which will give one vote to each share, instead of the present system which allows a maximum of 500 votes per holding, and prevents new shareholders voting for the first six months.

EEC textiles

Textile consumption in the EEC is likely to rise by only 1 to 1.5 per cent yearly over the next few years, according to the European Association of Clothing Industries and the Co-ordination Committee for the Textile Industries in the EEC.

German cost of living

West Germany's cost of living rose by 0.6 per cent in April, year-on-year rise of 5.8 per cent, the statistics office in Wiesbaden reported.

Turkish inflation

Turkey's inflation rate for the first quarter of this year was about 4.5 per cent, Mr Halil Basol, the trade minister, said in Ankara in an interview with several Turkish newspapers.

CBS chief resigns

Mr John D. Backe apparently has been forced to resign as president and chief executive officer of CBS. The media conglomerate issued a terse statement in New York saying that the 47-year-old executive had resigned.

Inflation slowdown in US may prompt moves to curb recession

From Frank Vogl
Washington, May 9
US Economics Correspondent

The United States government today released the most hopeful inflation figures seen in a year and several large banks moved ahead once more to cut interest rates here.

The good news was somewhat offset by a prediction of significant rises in world oil prices by the head of the Exxon Corporation; forecasts by national business leaders of a severe recession; and a warning by Mr Paul Volcker, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, that further falls in interest rates are going to depend on further progress in reducing inflation.

The Department of Labour announced that seasonally adjusted wholesale prices rose by 0.5 per cent in April. The last time these prices had increased by such a small amount was in May, 1979. Today's figures contrasted with the 1.4 per cent gain in these prices in March and gains of 1.5 per cent seen in both February and January.

An increasing number of private economists now fear that the Carter administration will switch its attention from fighting inflation to curbing the recession, given the improvement in the price picture and the mounting certainty that the recession will be deep.

Mr Philip Klutznick, the Commerce Secretary, predicted today that the recession may curtail gross national product by two to three per cent.

The Business Council, composed of leaders of the largest American companies, issued a report today predicting a severe slump and a most sluggish 1981 recovery from the slump. It suggested that President Carter might propose a \$25,000m counter-recession tax cut later this year.

Mr Reginald Jones, the council chairman who is also the head of General Electric, predicted that unemployment would rise well above 8 per cent.

Mr Clifford Garvin, the head of Exxon, today said at a Business Council meeting that in the next year world oil prices could well rise by \$2 to \$3 per barrel to an average level of more than \$30 per barrel.

Mr Volcker noted at the Business Council session that he did not anticipate the administration proposing a tax cut. He refused to comment on when the Fed might lift its special consumer credit restrictions, but he stressed the measures, introduced on March 14, were temporary.

The slowdown in the upward pace of wholesale prices will soon lead to a moderation in consumer price increases. The current annual rate of consumer price rises is in excess of 18 per cent. The wholesale prices will in turn be influenced by price developments being seen now for semi-finished and crude goods and here there was especially encouraging news today.

The Department of Labour reported that semi-finished goods prices rose by only 0.1

per cent last month, while crude goods prices actually declined by fully 3.5 per cent. Wholesale food prices last month fell by 2.8 per cent, after gaining by 1.1 per cent in March. Wholesale energy prices in April rose by 3.8 per cent, after advancing by quite a number of banks, following recent dramatic declines in short-term rates.

In the money market the rate for Federal funds—funds banks borrow on very short notice—has fallen to 10 1/2 per cent, trading around 10 1/4 per cent today. If the rate holds around this level and bankers expect that it will, then next week could see more prime rate reductions. The Chase Manhattan bank's prime is now at 17 per cent, while Citibank said today it was holding its prime at the moment at 17 1/2 per cent.

On Wall Street bankers predicted today that over the next four to six weeks short-term rates may fall a further 1 1/2 to 2 per cent. They agreed with the Business Council that the inflation rate, based on consumer prices, could well come down to around the 10 per cent level in the next few months and that it would be most difficult to bring it any lower.

Bank appeals for loan restraint to help US

By Roman Eisenstein
Banking Correspondent

The Bank of England has written to the main British and foreign banks operating in the United Kingdom and has asked them for restraint in lending to American companies.

This comes after last month's request from Mr Paul Volcker, chairman of the United States Federal Reserve Board to central banks of the major industrial countries asking them for help in enforcing the American domestic credit controls.

It is understood that most, if not all, central banks of the main industrial countries have responded positively.

The West German federal bank has already said that it is to comply with the American proposals. The Dutch and Japanese central banks have asked their banks to respond positively.

The Banque de France is reported as saying that for the present it will not follow the request. The Swiss National Bank is still sounding out opinion of its own and of foreign banks based in Switzerland.

The central banks have been considering the position for the past few weeks. The Bank of England said a few weeks ago that it was looking at ways of best responding to the American proposals.

It is not clear what practical effect the letter to the banks will have. Senior bankers in London said that they expect American banks in London to comply with the request. But there is nothing peremptory about the Bank of England's attitude.

If all the banks in western countries rigorously applied the Volcker proposals, then, of course, some international financial transactions might be complicated. The attempts by Grand Metropolitan Hotels to take over Liggett in the United States could, in theory, be made somewhat more difficult.

Paris talks to tackle oil shortages

Paris, May 9.—Western industrial nations and Japan are trying to set up a mechanism designed to prevent small and temporary oil supply shortages from developing into little crises.

Various schemes, sufficiently flexible to be implemented at very short notice, were discussed at a two-day meeting of the governing board of the International Energy Agency today.

The new mechanism is aimed at supplementing the existing oil emergency-sharing scheme which is activated only in the event of a seven per cent shortfall, the sources said.

The Japanese government has reversed its position and decided temporarily to allow trading houses and oil companies to pay \$35 a barrel for crude oil they import from Iran, industry sources said in Tokyo.

The \$35-a-barrel payment applies only to shipments made between April 1 and April 20 while negotiations on the Iranian demand to raise the oil price by \$2.5 a barrel to \$35 were in progress.

A Tokyo source suggested that the Japanese government might eventually decide to allow the companies to accept the \$35 price on a permanent basis.

Observers speculated that the Japanese acceptance may be connected to a joint project to complete a 730,000m yen (\$1,372m) Iranian Petrochemical project, work on which was halted in March 1979, because of Iran's internal political turmoil. AP-DJ.

New car registrations down by 30 per cent

By Edward Townsend

After three months of record demand, the United Kingdom market for new cars has gone sharply into reverse. April registrations were almost 30 per cent lower than a year earlier.

The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders said yesterday that the sudden deterioration in sales was "much as expected" and repeated its forecast that the total 1980 market would be about 1.5million against last year's record 1.7million.

Gloomier predictions at the beginning of the year put the 1980 total as low as 1.3million but the industry is now more confident following the first quarter's boom.

Registration figures published today show that over the first four months, sales totalled 617,390, a decline of only 3.21 per cent on the same period of last year. April sales were 144,567 against 161,796.

Despite the growing number of cars imported from the European factories of BL, Ford, Talbot and Vauxhall, imports in the four months accounted for 57.55 per cent of the market against 58.87 per cent a year ago.

BL's sales so far this year are 115,949 to give the state-owned company 18.78 per cent of the market. This compares with sales of 134,577 (21.67 per cent) in January to April, 1979.

In April, BL sold 20,723 cars, a fall of 27 per cent on a year earlier, yet the company's market share for the month rose from 17.72 per cent to 18.07 per cent. Worst hit in April was BL's Jaguar Rover Triumph division, whose sales dropped to 3,601 from 6,528 a year earlier.

Ford maintained its market leadership with 32 per cent of sales in the four months, a record total of 197,537 cars, and for the fifth month in succession the Cortina, Escort and Fiesta took first three places in the sales league table.

Vauxhall sales for the four months were 144,447 per cent of the market. But the highest level for seven years. In April, Vauxhall's market share rose to 8 per cent against 6.3 per cent a year ago.

Sales of the PSA group, which includes Talbot, Citroen and Peugeot, declined in April to 11,010 (9.6 per cent) from 13,585 (10.49 per cent) in April 1979.

Registration figures published today show that over the first four months, sales totalled 617,390, a decline of only 3.21 per cent on the same period of last year. April sales were 144,567 against 161,796.

Despite the growing number of cars imported from the European factories of BL, Ford, Talbot and Vauxhall, imports in the four months accounted for 57.55 per cent of the market against 58.87 per cent a year ago.

Observers speculated that the Japanese acceptance may be connected to a joint project to complete a 730,000m yen (\$1,372m) Iranian Petrochemical project, work on which was halted in March 1979, because of Iran's internal political turmoil. AP-DJ.

Pressure for research aid resisted

By Patricia Tisdall
Management Correspondent

An indication that the Government intends to resist pressures to increase state aid for industrial research and development was given by Lord Trenchard, Minister of State at the Department of Industry, yesterday.

The National Economic Development Office, the TUC and others advocate that part of the revenue from North Sea oil should be used to fund development in high technology areas. Lord Trenchard said that any increase in research aid would force his department to select core industries and that it was not well placed to "pick winners".

The methods which could be used to make a selection tended to rely on historical data, but the danger is that such "conventional wisdom" would be out of date. Instead the Government would prefer to devote any surplus revenue into fiscal improvements, he said.

However, the intention was to continue the two microelectronics support schemes set up by the previous administration in 1978. One of these, the Microelectronics Industry Support

Programme, has seen its financial allocation cut from £70m over a five-year period to £55m. The other, the Microprocessor Awareness Programme, has retained its budget also of £55m to be spent over a three-year period.

Lord Trenchard was speaking at the annual conference of the Association of British Chambers of Commerce, which also debated a discussion paper on European industrial investment. This has been compiled by Mr Michael Kilby, project planning manager of General Motors European Component Operations and a member of the ABC's economic and industrial committee.

Mr Kilby believes that EEC industrial strategy as a whole needs to be reworked and brought up to date if Britain is not to lose out.

Trade rules need to be reviewed to take account of current conditions of relatively low demand, surplus capacity and surplus labour as well as other changes in the base conditions.

Mr Kilby says that far more attention needs to be paid to the transport penalties suffered by geographically per-

ipheral countries such as Britain and Italy. "Freedom of investment choice has favoured the central 'Golden Triangle' countries of Germany, France, Belgium, Luxembourg and Holland."

Transport and in-transit costs are critical for many companies. EEC finance for improving the United Kingdom transportation infrastructure could benefit the Community as a whole if it provided better ports, motorway links and a channel tunnel, argues Mr Kilby. "Even if the EEC financed the entire transport budget of the United Kingdom, it would be a relatively insignificant price to pay compared with the enormous industrial, economic and social advantages the 'Golden Triangle' countries have gained because of their privileged central position."

Because of the escalation in prices since 1973 the United Kingdom now needs a transport system "not merely equal but actually superior to that of our EEC partners".

"International marketing men do not like the idea of supplying the mainland of Europe from an island, parti-



Lord Trenchard: "not well placed to pick winners".

cularly an island with a bad industrial relations track record for supply reliability. The marketing preference is to supply the island from the mainland. It is less expensive, less trouble, more reliable."

£2m loss at Kitchen Queen

By Richard Alden

Kitchen Queen, the kitchen furniture group, has run into a few difficulties with news of a £2m loss in the six months to February 22.

This compares with a forecast earlier this year that losses would be in the region of £300,000. Shares in the group, which came to the market only 16 months ago and touched 50p soon afterwards, slipped another 2p yesterday to 15p.

Also yesterday, the group revealed that it was selling its 47 retail outlets to Mr Stephen Boler, the Manchester businessman, for £2.1m. The group's discount on their book value.

Mr Leonard Morris, who became chairman on the departure of Kitchen Queen's founder, Mr Neville Johnson earlier this year, said last night that the retail division's loss of £1.5m had been the main reason for the overall deficit far exceeding the forecast.

But the original Di Lusso manufacturing division also plunged into a loss of £1.6m and only Maben Home Improvements, acquired last November, met its profits forecast of £1.2m.

Mr Morris said that in view of rationalization moves planned, bankers had agreed to continue to support the group, which by last October had run up debts of over £5m.

As part of the efforts to bring Kitchen Queen back into profit, Mr Morris and Mr James Bentham, the managing director, have agreed to the capitalization of loan notes of £1m which they received in part payment for their Maben company last year.

The capitalization could take the form of preference shares, to avoid Mr Morris and Mr Bentham's holdings rising above the 30 per cent level which would trigger a full bid under Takeover Panel rules.

Mr Morris said that by cutting back on manufacturing capacity—one of Di Lusso's three Manchester factories has already been shut—the group could be making "jolly good" profits next year.

"Nobody's arguing that we've got a very tough few months ahead," he added. "The company may be on its knees, but it was on its knees back before this. Now we've just got to try and stand up."

A Stock Exchange inquiry is continuing into the sharp fall in Kitchen Queen's share price before it revealed that it had run into trouble in January.

Grand Met threatens whisky supply in battle for Liggett

Grand Metropolitan, the British hotel and drinks conglomerate, has gone on to the offensive in its attempt to take over Liggett, the American cigarette and drinks group, which is now planning a merger with Standard Brands.

Grand Metropolitan is threatening to end the franchise agreement between itself and Liggett's subsidiary, Paddington, which distributes J & B, America's best selling Scotch whisky, supplied by a Grand Metropolitan offshoot, International Distillers and Vintners (IDV). IDV has notified Liggett, Paddington and Standard Brands that a change of control of Paddington by means of the proposed tender offer for Liggett by Standard will be deemed to be a transaction or course of action prejudicial to J & B Scotch whisky.

The threat—designed to thwart the mooted merger between Standard Brands and Liggett, since Paddington is a key profit contributor—came close after an order from the Securities Commissioner of South Carolina, allowing Grand Metropolitan to resume its tender offer at once.

This cash offer is of \$50 a share, or \$415m (£180m) in total, for all Liggett's common shares. However, it compares with Standard Brands' cash tender offer of \$65 a share for 45 per cent of Liggett's shares as a first stage, and an offer of one new share in a new convertible stock of Standard Brands for every remaining share in Liggett as a second stage to full merger. This offer

is considered on Wall Street to be worth around \$62 a share. For its own part, Liggett has already moved fast to make itself less attractive to Grand Metropolitan, which now accepts that Liggett has sold Austin Nicholls, another drinks subsidiary, to Farnold Ricard of France.

Grand Metropolitan is resigning to the likelihood of Liggett taking the franchise through the American courts. It is already on record that the company is considering a bigger bid for Liggett.

The United Kingdom conglomerate would have been glad to buy Liggett complete with Austin Nicholls as part of its drive to establish as many drinks outlets in the United States as possible. But Liggett now has \$57m in the bank from the Austin Nicholls sale.

That would suit Grand Metropolitan, which has already borrowed money to help pay for its existing bid.

Grand Metropolitan also wants to control the United States distributors' profit margins on its whisky, giving them much more of the total profit.

Big shareholders in Grand Metropolitan have kept an open mind about the Liggett bid so far, and at \$50 a share, Liggett would just about cover the cost of borrowing the money to pay for the bid.

Clearly this could not be the case for a higher bid, and some shareholders may soon start to worry if Grand Metropolitan looks like failing in its attempt to secure and expand American drinks outlets. At the moment, however, Grand Metropolitan remains confident.

More jobs to go in steel town

By Our Industrial Staff

The depressed steel town of Port Talbot in West Glamorgan has been hit further by the collapse of the engineering construction company of T. Potter and Son and the possible loss of 700 jobs.

National Westminster Bank has appointed a receiver to the company whose vice chairman, Mr Derek Bernard, said yesterday that continued trading was dependent upon additional borrowings. The bank, however, had been unable to offer support.

Port Talbot is already suffering from the decision of the British Steel Corporation to curtail operations and cut 7,000 jobs at its Margam plant by the end of the year.

Mr Bernard said that Potter's troubles had been caused by high interest rates and the effects of the steel strike.

Another cutback announced yesterday will mean the loss of a further 200 jobs at Howard Royston's Halesworth and Harleston operations. The company is to close the Halesworth factory and concentrate production at Harleston.

The company said the reduction in operations was the result of declining demand for agricultural machinery, particularly overseas, and the lack of indications that world economic conditions would improve in the foreseeable future.

Nissan no buyer

Nissan Motor Company said in Tokyo it had no intention of buying a closed Ford assembly plant in New Jersey as reportedly suggested by a White House aide.

PRICE CHANGES

Rises	Falls
Amul Pet 5p to 5 1/2p	Bliton Percy 14p to 22 1/2p
Nitgate Oil 10p to 14 1/2p	Brooks Group 7p to 24p
Dunlop 4p to 6 1/2p	Castlefield 13p to 44 1/2p
Klucres 4p to 4 1/2p	Howard & Wynd 11p to 5p
10 1/2p to 6 1/2p	Mincro 9p to 23 1/2p
Falls	
Bliton Percy 14p to 22 1/2p	
Brooks Group 7p to 24p	
Castlefield 13p to 44 1/2p	
Howard & Wynd 11p to 5p	
Mincro 9p to 23 1/2p	

THE POUND

Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank
Australia \$ 2.09	Bank of England 11.12	Bank of Japan 167.00	Bank of New Zealand 1.96
Austria Sch 30.55	Bank of France 11.12	Bank of Norway 1.96	Bank of Sweden 1.96
Belgium Fr 20.80	Bank of Italy 11.12	Bank of Switzerland 1.96	Bank of Denmark 1.96
Canada \$ 2.71	Bank of Germany 11.12	Bank of Netherlands 1.96	Bank of Belgium 1.96
Denmark Kr 13.25	Bank of Spain 11.12	Bank of Portugal 1.96	Bank of Greece 1.96
Finland Mk 8.50	Bank of Ireland 11.12	Bank of Luxembourg 1.96	Bank of Austria 1.96
France Fr 9.58	Bank of Canada 11.12	Bank of Ireland 1.96	Bank of Denmark 1.96
Germany DM 98.00	Bank of New Zealand 11.12	Bank of Norway 1.96	Bank of Sweden 1.96
Greece Dr 11.40	Bank of Japan 11.12	Bank of Switzerland 1.96	Bank of Denmark 1.96
Hongkong \$ 7.40	Bank of Korea 11.12	Bank of Taiwan 1.96	Bank of Thailand 1.96
Ireland P 1.14	Bank of Malaysia 11.12	Bank of Singapore 1.96	Bank of Philippines 1.96
Italy Lit 1985.00	Bank of Indonesia 11.12	Bank of Brunei 1.96	Bank of East Africa 1.96
Japan Yen 355.00	Bank of South Africa 11.12	Bank of Botswana 1.96	Bank of Lesotho 1.96
Netherlands Gld 4.71	Bank of Rhodesia 11.12	Bank of Swaziland 1.96	Bank of Zambia 1.96

Forty-four bids for 'early bird' and regional franchises Scrambling for breakfast TV

The late Lord Thomson's remark that a television franchise is a licence to print money seems to be as true today as when he first said it during the 1950s, judging by the hopefuls who yesterday announced themselves as contenders for the licences due to run from January 1982.

The 44 applicants scrambling for 15 regional franchises and a possible licence for breakfast television have undertaken a raise, between them, of risk capital of approaching £400m in order to get on the air. The potential investors range from trade unions to pension schemes, from the pop record group Chrysalis to Nottinghamshire County Council.

Despite concern in the television industry of an approaching advertising recession, high initial costs for any consortium which wins a franchise from an existing holder, and difficulties over the introduction of new broadcasting technology, backing for the consortium has been readily forthcoming.

A number of newspaper groups are involved in bids. Reed International's Daily Record is involved in the Caledonia consortium which is attempting to take away the re-

gion now held by Scottish Television. Haymarket Publishing and three local newspaper groups are part of the Television South consortium fighting against Southern Television; and The Observer, The Guardian, and The Economist are shareholders in AMTV, one of the contenders for the breakfast channel.

Pearson Longman, owner of the Financial Times and Penguin Books, is the principal shareholder in AM Television, another group interested in breakfast television. Morgan Gramplan and Express Newspapers have interest in a further breakfast bid, Daybreak Television, in which Lord Grade's ACC, holding company of the existing channel ATV, has a 15 per cent stake.

Courtaulds Pension Fund and Nottinghamshire County Council are among the backers of Mercia Television which is doing battle with ATV in the Midlands. The third contender for the area is Midlands TV, which has the investment company, Touche Reinman among its supporters.

One group which is not revealing publicly the identity of its backers is London Independent Television, headed by

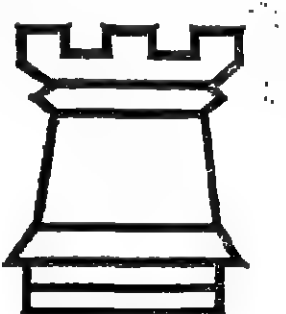
former television compere Mr Hughie Green which, much to the industry's surprise, has put in bids for both London franchises at present held by Thames and London Weekend Television.

Mr Green said last night that the capitalization of the company would be £30m, but added: "We have to keep that the identity of the backers) absolutely under wraps because it is part of the bid which has gone into the IBA and is now their property. These people are highly reputable in their field, which is chiefly entertainment."

The bid is thought to have the lowest estimate of working capital is Morning Television, headed by Mr Michael Townsend a Thames Television producer supported by a number of unnamed BBC and ITV executives. It hopes to win the breakfast channel with an initial capitalisation of £4.8m, 50 per cent from institutional investors including insurance companies and pensions funds, 25 per cent from individual founding members, and a further 25 per cent to come from future share sales.

David Hewson

Sears Holdings Limited



Results for the year ended 31st January, 1980

	1979/80	1978/79
Turnover	£m 1,258	£m 1,103
Group profits before taxation	92.8	92.0
Group profits after taxation	64.8	54.0
Dividend	17.9	12.9
Added to reserves	44.6	40.1

Turnover exceeded £1.25 billion, an increase of 14% over 1978/79.

EDITED BY MARGARET STONE

FINANCIAL NEWS

A matter of presentation

Filing in your tax return and providing supporting accounts is an exercise in the art of clear communication. You (or your accountant) should therefore not only be knowledgeable about tax—you must also be able to present the information clearly and know what sort of questions the inspector of Taxes would be likely to ask.

Nowhere in the tax return are the skills of presentation and communicating generally more appropriate than in the section for self-employed earnings. Just consider the enormous variety of trades, businesses, or professions you could have—from lecturing on Chinese pottery or being a partner in an international firm of lawyers to running a part-time odd job gardening business as sole trader.

If the Inspector of Taxes does not understand the nature of your work, then he may not easily accept your figures. Of course, once he does know your business, you should bear in mind that his wide and continuing experience of many different taxpayers will have given him a shrewd insight into the kinds of expenses you will have incurred and even the overall profit margins you should be making.

The first step is to calculate the gross income; you can then go on to make the various deductions from income in order to arrive at the level of your taxable profits.

Self-employed people are generally taxed on the basis of the income they earned in the previous year. So you would be subject to tax in 1980-81 according to the income that you received in your accounting period ending in 1979-80. Your accounting period could coincide with the tax year itself

—April 6, 1979, to April 5, 1980—or it could be for example, January 1, 1979, to December 31, 1979.

Generally speaking, the best date on which to end an accounting period is April 30, because it gives you a cashflow advantage where profits are consistently growing each year: it gives you more time for tax planning.

The figure of business or professional profits that you include in your return is made up of total earnings less allowable expenses which have to be incurred wholly and exclusively for business purposes. Remember also that there are several types of expenditure which are specifically not allowable, including most gifts or entertaining.

Since the level of your expenses will usually be the area subject to closest scrutiny, it is in your interest to set out the amounts under the right headings—heat, light, electricity, travel, secretarial help, rent, etc.—and so on. For, if there has been a drastic change in the relationship of expenses to income or your accounts are in some way not typical, the Inspector may want to know the details behind your figures. He may also want to be able to compare trends year by year.

You will certainly want to avoid becoming involved in tedious and time-consuming correspondence with the Inland Revenue; so it is worth trying to follow two basic rules. First, be consistent in allocating your expenses under the various headings; for instance, you should try to avoid putting entertainment in with travel or vice versa. Secondly, if you think that the Inspector of Taxes might raise a question

about an item, such as much lower income or a higher category of expenses, consider pre-empting his question with a brief explanatory note.

Capital expenditure on such things as certain buildings, machinery or plant (including books and other equipment) may also be allowable, but only if it qualifies for capital allowances, which means in most cases that all the expenditure can be set against income immediately. With cars the allowance is restricted to 25 per cent (up to £2,000) a year.

Do not forget to claim all the reliefs and deductions to which you may be entitled. A valuable deduction of 25 per cent is available if you went abroad for business purposes for at least 30 days in the year ending April 5, 1980.

In general, it is good practice to try and look at your return as if you were the Inspector of Taxes himself—asking the questions that he would ask—about stock levels, turnover, increased overseas travel and gross margins. In fact, some firms of accountants make a practice of including a brief "schedule of observations" volunteering background information. It saves time on letters and may even help save off the ever present threat of a full Inland Revenue investigation.

But do not forget, you are responsible for the accuracy of the information included in the return and you will have to sign it—even if an accountant completes the form itself.

Danby Bloch and Raymond Godfrey

Ultramar starts year with leap of 150pc

By Catherine Gunn

Ultramar has made a strong start in 1980 with first-quarter profits up 150 per cent at £31.5m, and net profits more than doubled to £19.8m—though these figures are below some stock-market expectations after 1979's bumper fourth quarter, and the shares eased to 672p.

First-quarter sales rose 113 per cent to £223.8m, despite a drop in oil sales from 280,900 barrels a day, to 203,600, because of reduced crude supplies. Ultramar has repaid £34m, and raised £1.8m, of long-term debt, bringing its total long-term borrowings to £44.4m. A \$48m loan facility in Indonesia has been retained till 1985, though reducing every quarter by \$2.7m.

Indonesia provided almost two-fifths of profits in the first quarter, thanks to high LNG prices. Discussions on a contract that could double the size of Ultramar's Badak LNG plant continue. In Canada, the group is seeking assurances that adequate supplies of West Canadian crude will come to its East Canadian refinery, to make the proposed C5130m installation of a cracker.

Ultramar's first-quarter profits were also helped by a higher price for crude—worthwhile.

Meanwhile, with heavy oil prices down, the group pursued higher-margin sales in the first quarter in preference to volume.

Stock markets

Equities dull but gilts steadier

Oils were the main feature yesterday in an otherwise dull end-of-account session, already upset by the decision not to cut MLR and some disappointing banking figures.

Equities were again quiet. However, gilts managed to apply the brake on Thursday's sharp falls in statement on interest rates, so that, by the close most prices were unchanged on the day throughout the list. Even the new "tap" Treasury 13½ per cent, 1992, closed at 102½ after starting at 102 and attracting little interest.

Equities came in for another quiet session with a total absence of business reported by most dealers. Only new-time buying and an optimistic outlook towards the new three-week-long account enabled the FT index to close no more than 0.2 off at 435.6, after being 2.2 down at 2 pm.

In oils, BP retreated a further 6p to 326p amid further United States selling. Shell eased 4p to 350p in sympathy, but Ultramar was left 10p lower at 672p following figures. Centricol also reporting, finished a net 2p higher on the day.

Overnight buying of Dunlop from the Far East once more caught jobs dropping yesterday. One well-known broker again picked up more than 500,000 shares, leaving several jobbers short of stock. As a result the price rose another 4p to 67p.

In blue chips, short-time working lopped 3p from Distillers, while the go-ahead for the Luggitt bid clipped 2p from Grand Met at 124p.

The increased sugar price put 5p on British Sugar at 186p and 3p on Tate & Lyle at 126p. Speculative demand lifted Lyle Shipping 7p to 231p, Hall Bros 10p to 179p and Ladbroke 6p to 151p. A cash injection gave Polly Peck a 4p fillip at 41p, but profit-taking knocked Sotheby P.B. 7p to 433p. Shares of Brocks Group plunged 7p to 24p in a dull market.

Recent figures continued to upset Whesoe 4p lower at 46p

Shares of Westpool returned from suspension up 36p at 140p, but Southern Construction was suspended at 33p as the receiver was called in.

In stores, profit-taking hit Mothercare 6p to 242p with Moss Bros losing 10p at 255p following recent figures.

Equity turnover on May 8 was £92.506m (12,918 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were Ultramar, Premier, Lasso, Tricentrol, KCA Int, Carless Capel, BP, RTZ, Dunlop, Barclays Bank, BTG, Burnham, GEC, Grand Met and Midland Bank.

Latest results

Company	Sales	Profit	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
Int or Fin	£m	£m	per share	pence	date	total
BP	1,040(0.5)	0.23(0.07)	—	—	—	—
Shell	9,919(4)	0.7(0.18)	1.9(0.22)	0.1(0.1)	—	0.1(0.1)
John Crowther (F)	7,05(5.06)	0.28(0.04)	—	0.76(0.73)	26/6	0.76(0.73)
Cummins Int (I)	—	0.02(0.03)	0.35(0.5)	—	—	—
Edinburgh Gen (F)	0.75(0.53)	0.1(0.01)	—	—	—	—
Garner Scot (F)	39.8(31.6)	1.4(1.3)	12.8(15.0)	—	—	—
G. R. Hedges (I)	14.2(12.8)	1.5(1.4)	—	1.6(1.4)	3/7	—
1528 Trust (F)	—	2.4(1.9)	4.52(3.4)	3.8(3.3)	—	4.45(3.3)
Richards (I)	6.7(5.5)	0.17(0.28)	0.8(1.2)	0.3(0.3)	30/5	—
Sumner (F)	2.2(2.0)	0.14(0.07)	—	—	—	—
Ulster TV (I)	2.7(2.3)	0.17(0.02)	—	—	—	—
Usher Walker (F)	6.4(5.5)	0.29(0.21)	8.6(7.4)	2.78(2.33)	3/7	4.06(3.6)
Weeks (F)	10.7(8.3)	0.04(0.01)	0.4(0.1)	0.9(0.8)	—	1.6(1.3)

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. — Loss. + Net.

Oil pushes Tricentrol to £11.7m in first quarter

By Rosemary Unsworth

Tricentrol's first-quarter results, published today, are a day of the annual meeting, were slightly ahead of market expectations, with pretax profits of £11.7m compared with £3.2m last time. Rising oil sales boosted turnover by 45 per cent to £66m during the period.

The profits increase came mainly from the group's 9.7 per cent interest in the Thistle Field. A recent revaluation of reserves there, made to support the issue of 12.5 million shares in the United States shows that these amount to 470 million barrels, compared with the group's own estimate of 450 million, although the operator, Shell, has a much higher at 522 million.

Oil and gas production in the United Kingdom rose from £2m last year to £9.2m, while the

Vaux heads for another peak year

By Our Financial Staff

Sunderland-based Vaux Breweries is heading for a fresh record to top last year's £8.26m. Mr Paul Nicholson, chairman, said he expected the improvement with the announcement of an increase in profits from £2.69m to £2.72m in the 24 weeks to March 13. Turnover rose from £38.2m to £40.8m.

The net proceeds of the £21m deal to sell Vaux's Scottish operations to Allied Breweries have been used to pay off short-term debt and the rest is in place or on deposit.

The saving of finance charges thanks to the sell-off will be the key to a second half increase and the record year. The interim dividend is raised from 2.63p gross to 3.16p.

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited
27/28 Lovat Lane London EC3R 8EB Telephone 01-621 1212

The Over-the-Counter Market

1979	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Div	Yld	P.E.
99	60	Airsprung Group	66	—	6.7	10.2	+3.9
50	25	Arlington Rhodes	31	—	3.8	12.3	+2.0
275	185	Bardon Hill	275	—	13.8	5.0	+8.1
100	80	County Cars Pref	80	—	15.3	19.1	—
101	63	Deborah Ord	93	—	5.0	5.4	10.2
115	88	Frank Horsell	115	+1	7.9	6.9	7.1
129	98	Frederick Parker	101	—	12.8	12.7	+4.6
156	102	George Blair	107	—	15.5	15.4	—
70	45	Jackson Group	69	—	5.2	7.5	+4.1
153	108	James Burrough	108	—	7.2	6.7	9.5
300	242	Robert Jenkins	285	—	31.3	11.0	+9.1
232	175	Torday Limited	222	—	14.3	6.4	+5.8
34	11	Twinkl Ord	14	—	0.8	0.6	+2.7
80	70	Twinkl 12 1/2 ULS	75	—	12.0	16.0	—
56	23	Unilock Holdings	48	—	3.6	5.4	10.2
50	45	Unilock Holdings New	45	—	—	—	9.6
99	42	Walter Alexander	93	—	4.4	4.7	6.2
200	136	W. S. Yeates	200	—	12.1	6.1	+3.3

* Accounts prepared under provision of SSAP15

'Which?' way to solve your problem

People often have problems when goods they buy give up on them long after they have got them home, or a service does not seem quite as good as they were led to believe.

If the first approach to the supplier does not turn out satisfactorily we tend to shrug our shoulders and forget about it. Ignorance of the law to do next or the feeling that as David we do not really want to take on Goliath is usually behind this apathy. Professional legal advice would help, but we tend to shy away from this because of the cost. Here the Consumers' Association can come to the rescue. Its Which? Personal Service plan is designed to lead consumers through the legal redress jungle—cheaply.

The service works on a fixed subscription fee of £12 a year. Once you have joined the service you can take your problems to them. Or if you already have one, tell them about it and join up.

The service covers the whole range of consumer problems. It will help when goods fall apart or break down almost immediately or if they do not actually do what they claim to. Help is also at hand if you feel you have been overcharged for a particular service or the standard of work is unsatisfactory.

On taking on your case, the service asks for all documents or correspondence on the

matter so far. From this its team of lawyers will be able to tell if you have a valid claim.

If you have, they will outline the action you should take and draft any letters you need to write. When you get a reply, they will then recommend any necessary further action.

In cases that need to go to the county court to be resolved, the pros and cons of your case will be fully explained and the pleadings will be prepared for you by the lawyers.

But the lawyers will not actually appear in court on your behalf. However, occasionally they might come along to give you moral support. If your case is heard in or around London. Limited finances prevent the service from extending this practice further afield.

You might be lucky and get your legal costs paid for you. If in the opinion of the Consumers' Association your case raises important matters of principle affecting consumers in general, it is prepared to foot the bill.

Usually the Consumers' Association likes to stay in the background, but it is willing to show its hand if necessary. "Experience in handling over 1,500 cases has shown that the most successful way of dealing with problems is for us to help members to take action themselves," says Beryl Johnson, Head of the advisory Services.

"But," she adds, "some cases are more likely to be solved by direct intervention, so we may consider that an approach by us to the parties concerned is likely to be more fruitful."

After its launch some seven years ago the service kept in the background for fear that the workload might overburden the service. Now it is confident after a painless testing period that it can expand smoothly.

It now boasts 35,000 members and a high success rate. About 80 per cent of its cases come to a satisfactory conclusion even though a number fall by the wayside due to the member's lack of stamina.

Although the service reserves the right to charge a supplementary fee over and above its £12, so far it has not had occasion to do so. This comes into play only if you make exceptionally heavy demands on the service.

This does not necessarily relate to the number of times you use the service in any one year, but more to the nature of the cases. For example, four or five easily resolved cases each year would not demand any extra fee, although an equal number of hefty time-consuming cases could well do so.

Sylvia Morris

Briefly

John Crowther Group: Dividend for 1979: 1.08p gross (1.04p). Turnover £7.05m (55.05m). Pretax loss £287,000 (profit £37,000). Extremely difficult trading conditions resulted in a loss in production with heavy attendance costs. Some wearing equipment was sold for about £720,000. Surplus over book value about £370,000. Remained working capacity is adequate.

Sandhurst Marketing: Turnover for year to January 31, £6m (£2.8m for seven months) and pretax profit £507,000 (£200,000 for seven months). Eps 4.47p (nil). No div (same).

Edinburgh General Insurance Services: Turnover for 1979, £758,000 (£534,000). Pretax profit £100,000 (loss £14,000). Eps 4.47p (nil). No div (same).

Francis Summer Engineering: Turnover 1979 £2.2m (£2.0m). Pretax loss £146,000 (profit £75,000).

Cumulus Investment Trust: Post-tax revenue for six months to March 31 £18,000 (£24,000). Eps 0.33p (0.45p). Nil (44.3p (48.7p)). Losses of £6,000 attributed to two subsidiaries are not included in the results.

Garner Scotchblair: Dividend, 8.5p gross (7.3p). Turnover £39.87m (£31.65m). Pretax profit £1.37m (£1.32m). Eps after full tax charge, 12.83p (15.01p).

Ulster Television: Interim results for year to July 31 next: Turnover £2.5m (£2.93m). Profit attributable, £117,000 (£208,000).

ICI has acquired for cash, ICI Australia's 49 per cent interest in IMT Australia which now becomes a wholly owned subsidiary. IMT Australia had a turnover in 1979 of £12m and is principally engaged in metals, engineering, building products and sporting goods markets.

G. R. Holdings: Interim 2.28p gross. Turnover for half to December 31, £14.17m (£12.85m). Pretax profit £1.51m (£1.37m).

Tampax Ltd: Discussions are taking place which may lead to an offer being made by Tampax Incorporated for the shares not already owned. Company's shares are traded under rule 163 (2).

Imperial Chemical Industries intend to float A500m (£42.5m), three-year bond, to be sold at 110 pence through a syndicate led by S. C. Warburg and Co, market sources said. An executive at S. C. Warburg said that he was not in a position to disclose details at this time.

Commercial Bank of Near East: Dividend paid at 2.5p gross for 1979. Pretax profit £257,000 (£286,000). Chairman says an injection of new capital may be considered necessary to support growing business.

Usher-Walker: Dividend 5.8p gross (5.33p) for 1979. Turnover £6.4m (£5.5m). Pretax profit £24,500 (£214,000). Eps 8.63p (7.36p). Comparison's restated following adoption of accounting standard relating to deferred tax.

Nineteen Twenty-Eight Investment Trust: Revenue (before tax) for year to March 31 rose from £15.5m to £24.48m. Total dividend, £1.48p (1.48p), plus special dividend of 0.85p. Earnings per stock unit, 4.52p (3.39p). Net asset value per ordinary stock unit was 85.5p (85.5p) compared with 100.6p a year earlier.

Investor's week

A secondary oil fever

Buridan's Ass, we are told, was tethered between a pile of hay and a pile of water. Unable to decide whether it was more hungry or thirsty, it starved and died. We are told wrongly, of course. One school claims that the choice was between two identical haystacks.

So I should be allowed to point out that Jean Buridan (1300-1358) did not discuss Buridan's Ass, but rather the choice of a philosopher who was about to starve. With the silly season just about upon us, will stockbrokers starve as we stumble through the summer?

Some nearly did this week as a slumbering stock market opened one eye to bet on secondary oils and Rhodesian bonds but otherwise slept, exhausted by the effort of weighing the pros and cons of company news and interest rates. The FT index fell from 443.6 to 436.5.

There is no doubting the fever in secondary oil. The Tricentrol which is actually getting into its annual meeting on Friday. On one account the first quarter figures were listened to rapturously by at least 30 brokers and possibly 100 brokers' men.

There is also a lengthening list of instant experts on secondary oils. No broker worth his salt can afford to be without one such "expert". Institutions such as pension funds, unafraid of locking up huge sums of money for maybe years as well as for speculators are hungry for action.

Lasso which probably employs fewer than 30 souls and a half of higher and higher fuelled by guesses on a new find on the Andrew Field. But Lasso now has a market capitalization of around £447m. GKN, for comparison, is slightly bigger.

There was also a burst of activity in Rhodesian bonds on hopes of an early settlement of the money owed by Zimbabwe on loans issued before UDI.

Otherwise... I was about to say nothing. But J. Sainsbury spurted on a remarkable 41 per cent in profits thanks to better margins from a bigger market share and moves into meat and fresh foods, while Marks & Spencer managed only a 7½ per cent rise to £174m.

Sears almost stood still while Whesoe in engineering went into losses. Nobody cared. What people want to know is

when minimum lending rate is going to fall? Broker Laing & Cruickshank bravely says in June. Many others demur. Apart from this they would like to know how company profits or the lack of them will fare now that an exceptional first quarter to this year recedes into the distance. At least profits reported in the brewery season now beginning should look good. So do prospects as more and dearer beer goes down more throats.

Meanwhile I see that medium and long gilt-edged are yielding little more than 14 per cent at a time when inflation is over 20 per cent with most City estimates seeing it still as 15 per cent until well into next year. No comfort for shares here.

Peter Wainwright

MAIN CHANGES OF THE WEEK

Year's	Year's	Company	Change	Comment
high	low			
245p	182p	Bestobell	9p to 245p	Chmn cheerful
181p	127p	British Sugar	10p to 186p	Up at new price
633p	337p	Lasso	58p to 633p	Hope of new oil find
252p	190p	Mothercare	8p to 242p	Yr's pit up 41 pc
930p	404p	Siebens	60p to 920p	Cash injection; share split; name change
219p	192p	Distillers	11p to 189p	Short time working fears
912p	628p	Guthrie	25p to 725p	Rubber price softens; still no bid
96p	79p	Lex Service	9p to 78p	Chmn warning on car registrations
86p	80p	Royal Bk Scotland	5p to 86p	Int figures disappoint
86p	50p	Whesoe	18p to 40p	First half net loss, no int div

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As realists, we in Zurich have never expected our Swiss German dialect to become the lingua franca of the financial world. However we firmly believe that our ideas concerning the management of money are a great deal more exportable.

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bucks, inflated currencies and over-exposed investment holdings. At Bank Julius Baer all portfolios are managed with a view to their long-term strength in a world of frequently topsy-turvy currencies, interest rates and stock markets.

Now that British investors are free from the restrictions of exchange controls, those with substantial funds should seriously consider allocating a proportion of their capital to Swiss management. At Bank Julius Baer we will be delighted to discuss such a move with you—and naturally we will expect to talk in the language of your choice. Contact Clifford Smith in London for a preliminary conversation about the Baer International Investment Service.

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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Commodities

COPPER was steady. Afternoon—Standard cash, 27.45-27.50; three months, 27.50-27.55; six months, 27.55-27.60; nine months, 27.60-27.65; twelve months, 27.65-27.70. Tin was steady. Afternoon—Standard cash, 27.45-27.50; three months, 27.50-27.55; six months, 27.55-27.60; nine months, 27.60-27.65; twelve months, 27.65-27.70. Lead was steady. Afternoon—Standard cash, 27.45-27.50; three months, 27.50-27.55; six months, 27.55-27.60; nine months, 27.60-27.65; twelve months, 27.65-27.70. Zinc was steady. Afternoon—Standard cash, 27.45-27.50; three months, 27.50-27.55; six months, 27.55-27.60; nine months, 27.60-27.65; twelve months, 27.65-27.70. Nickel was steady. Afternoon—Standard cash, 27.45-27.50; three months, 27.50-27.55; six months, 27.55-27.60; nine months, 27.60-27.65; twelve months, 27.65-27.70. Silver was steady. Afternoon—Standard cash, 27.45-27.50; three months, 27.50-27.55; six months, 27.55-27.60; nine months, 27.60-27.65; twelve months, 27.65-27.70. Gold was steady. Afternoon—Standard cash, 27.45-27.50; three months, 27.50-27.55; six months, 27.55-27.60; nine months, 27.60-27.65; twelve months, 27.65-27.70. Wheat was steady. Afternoon—Standard cash, 27.45-27.50; three months, 27.50-27.55; six months, 27.55-27.60; nine months, 27.60-27.65; twelve months, 27.65-27.70. Corn was steady. Afternoon—Standard cash, 27.45-27.50; three months, 27.50-27.55; six months, 27.55-27.60; nine months, 27.60-27.65; twelve months, 27.65-27.70. Soybeans were steady. Afternoon—Standard cash, 27.45-27.50; three months, 27.50-27.55; six months, 27.55-27.60; nine months, 27.60-27.65; twelve months, 27.65-27.70. Cotton was steady. Afternoon—Standard cash, 27.45-27.50; three months, 27.50-27.55; six months, 27.55-27.60; nine months, 27.60-27.65; twelve months, 27.65-27.70. Sugar was steady. Afternoon—Standard cash, 27.45-27.50; three months, 27.50-27.55; six months, 27.55-27.60; nine months, 27.60-27.65; twelve months, 27.65-27.70. Rice was steady. Afternoon—Standard cash, 27.45-27.50; three months, 27.50-27.55; six months, 27.55-27.60; nine months, 27.60-27.65; twelve months, 27.65-27.70. Oil was steady. Afternoon—Standard cash, 27.45-27.50; three months, 27.50-27.55; six months, 27.55-27.60; nine months, 27.60-27.65; twelve months, 27.65-27.70. Gas was steady. Afternoon—Standard cash, 27.45-27.50; three months, 27.50-27.55; six months, 27.55-27.60; nine months, 27.60-27.65; twelve months, 27.65-27.70. Coal was steady. Afternoon—Standard cash, 27.45-27.50; three months, 27.50-27.55; six months, 27.55-27.60; nine months, 27.60-27.65; twelve months, 27.65-27.70. Iron was steady. Afternoon—Standard cash, 27.45-27.50; three months, 27.50-27.55; six months, 27.55-27.60; nine months, 27.60-27.65; twelve months, 27.65-27.70. Steel was steady. Afternoon—Standard cash, 27.45-27.50; three months, 27.50-27.55; six months, 27.55-27.60; nine months, 27.60-27.65; twelve months, 27.65-27.70. Lumber was steady. Afternoon—Standard cash, 27.45-27.50; three months, 27.50-27.55; six months, 27.55-27.60; nine months, 27.60-27.65; twelve months, 27.65-27.70. Paper was steady. Afternoon—Standard cash, 27.45-27.50; three months, 27.50-27.55; six months, 27.55-27.60; nine months, 27.60-27.65; twelve months, 27.65-27.70. Textiles were steady. Afternoon—Standard cash, 27.45-27.50; three months, 27.50-27.55; six months, 27.55-27.60; nine months, 27.60-27.65; twelve months, 27.65-27.70. Miscellaneous were steady. Afternoon—Standard cash, 27.45-27.50; three months, 27.50-27.55; six months, 27.55-27.60; nine months, 27.60-27.65; twelve months, 27.65-27.70.

Discount market

To relieve the continuing shortage of funds in the market yesterday the Bank of England gave help on a large scale to the discount market. The discount rate was cut to 15 per cent from 16 per cent. The authorities were able to take the shortage out without rolling any element of it forward.

Money Market Rates

Bank of England Minimum Lending Rate 15%
Overnight 15%
Three months 15%
Six months 15%
Twelve months 15%
Treasury Bills (7%)
Three months 15%
Six months 15%
Twelve months 15%
Prime Bank Bill (7%)
Three months 15%
Six months 15%
Twelve months 15%
Local Authority Bonds
Three months 15%
Six months 15%
Twelve months 15%
Government Securities
Three months 15%
Six months 15%
Twelve months 15%
Commercial Paper
Three months 15%
Six months 15%
Twelve months 15%
Interbank Market (7%)
Three months 15%
Six months 15%
Twelve months 15%
Money Market Rates (7%)
Three months 15%
Six months 15%
Twelve months 15%

Foreign exchange report

Sterling extended an earlier decline in late trading as the dollar finished the week on a firm note. The pound showed a decline of 1.83 cents at 2.2675 compared with 2.2658 overnight, while its trade-weighted index dipped 0.3 points at the final calculation of 73.0 against 73.3.

Sterling Spot and Forward

Market rates
Sterling Spot 2.2675
Sterling Forward 2.2675
Sterling Forward 2.2675
Sterling Forward 2.2675
Sterling Forward 2.2675
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Sterling Forward 2.2675

Wall Street

New York, May 9.—Stocks retreated in active trading this morning extending Thursday's weakness. The Dow Jones industrial average lost five points and declined paced advances seven-to-three.

May 9	May 8	May 7	May 6	May 5
NYSE Composite	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50
Dow Jones Industrial	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50
S&P 500	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50
NASDAQ Composite	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50
NYSE Foreign	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50
Dow Jones Foreign	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50
S&P 500 Foreign	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50
NASDAQ Foreign	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50
NYSE Energy	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50
Dow Jones Energy	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50
S&P 500 Energy	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50
NASDAQ Energy	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50
NYSE Health Care	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50
Dow Jones Health Care	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50
S&P 500 Health Care	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50
NASDAQ Health Care	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50
NYSE Technology	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50
Dow Jones Technology	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50
S&P 500 Technology	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50
NASDAQ Technology	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50
NYSE Financial	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50
Dow Jones Financial	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50
S&P 500 Financial	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50
NASDAQ Financial	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50
NYSE Consumer Goods	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50
Dow Jones Consumer Goods	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50
S&P 500 Consumer Goods	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50
NASDAQ Consumer Goods	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50
NYSE Industrial	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50
Dow Jones Industrial	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50
S&P 500 Industrial	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50
NASDAQ Industrial	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50
NYSE Utilities	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50
Dow Jones Utilities	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50
S&P 500 Utilities	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50
NASDAQ Utilities	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50	2,267.50

Dutch losses hit Philips

Losses on operations in The Netherlands pulled down Philips trading profit in the first quarter of this year, offsetting modest gains in other areas. But this Dutch electrical giant hopes to see an improvement in the operating results for Holland during the course of the year.

International

contracted from 6.3 to 5.7 per cent. Sales rose by 13 per cent to 3,810 fl (about £1,800m). On a volume basis, the increase was only 9 per cent. Philips commented that the sales growth in cash terms was favourably influenced by consolidation of the results of Felten and Guillaume Carisberg in Cologne and some deconsolidations, the most important of which was Philips India.

Recent Issues

Amstar Corp (N.Y.)
Amstar Corp (N.Y.)
Amstar Corp (N.Y.)
Amstar Corp (N.Y.)
Amstar Corp (N.Y.)
Amstar Corp (N.Y.)
Amstar Corp (N.Y.)
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Amstar Corp (N.Y.)

Sterling: Other Markets

Market rates
Sterling Spot 2.2675
Sterling Forward 2.2675
Sterling Forward 2.2675
Sterling Forward 2.2675
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Dollar Spot Rates

Market rates
Dollar Spot 1.0000
Dollar Forward 1.0000
Dollar Forward 1.0000
Dollar Forward 1.0000
Dollar Forward 1.0000
Dollar Forward 1.0000
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EMS European Currency Rates

Market rates
EMS European Currency Rates
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Silver Surveys

Market rates
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Gold

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Euro-\$ Deposits

Market rates
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Authorized Unit Trusts	Authorized Unit Trusts	Authorized Unit Trusts	Authorized Unit Trusts	Authorized Unit Trusts	Authorized Unit Trusts	Authorized Unit Trusts	Authorized Unit Trusts	Authorized Unit Trusts	Authorized Unit Trusts
1. 100% Growth	2. 100% Growth	3. 100% Growth	4. 100% Growth	5. 100% Growth	6. 100% Growth	7. 100% Growth	8. 100% Growth	9. 100% Growth	10. 100% Growth
11. 100% Growth	12. 100% Growth	13. 100% Growth	14. 100% Growth	15. 100% Growth	16. 100% Growth	17. 100% Growth	18. 100% Growth	19. 100% Growth	20. 100% Growth
21. 100% Growth	22. 100% Growth	23. 100% Growth	24. 100% Growth	25. 100% Growth	26. 100% Growth	27. 100% Growth	28. 100% Growth	29. 100% Growth	30. 100% Growth
31. 100% Growth	32. 100% Growth	33. 100% Growth	34. 100% Growth	35. 100% Growth	36. 100% Growth	37. 100% Growth	38. 100% Growth	39. 100% Growth	40. 100% Growth
41. 100% Growth	42. 100% Growth	43. 100% Growth	44. 100% Growth	45. 100% Growth	46. 100% Growth	47. 100% Growth	48. 100% Growth	49. 100% Growth	50. 100% Growth
51. 100% Growth	52. 100% Growth	53. 100% Growth	54. 100% Growth	55. 100% Growth	56. 100% Growth	57. 100% Growth	58. 100% Growth	59. 100% Growth	60. 100% Growth
61. 100% Growth	62. 100% Growth	63. 100% Growth	64. 100% Growth	65. 100% Growth	66. 100% Growth	67. 100% Growth	68. 100% Growth	69. 100% Growth	70. 100% Growth
71. 100% Growth	72. 100% Growth	73. 100% Growth	74. 100% Growth	75. 100% Growth	76. 100% Growth	77. 100% Growth	78. 100% Growth	79. 100% Growth	80. 100% Growth
81. 100% Growth	82. 100% Growth	83. 100% Growth	84. 100% Growth	85. 100% Growth	86. 100% Growth	87. 100% Growth	88. 100% Growth	89. 100% Growth	90. 100% Growth
91. 100% Growth	92. 100% Growth	93. 100% Growth	94. 100% Growth	95. 100% Growth	96. 100% Growth	97. 100% Growth	98. 100% Growth	99. 100% Growth	100. 100% Growth

الأسفل

هكذا من الأصل

Shoparound with Beryl Downing Shoparound with Beryl Downing Shoparound with Beryl Downing Shoparound with Beryl Downing

How to make towelling
look seductive. This
simple sarong for beach
or bath is elasticated
along the top hem at
the back, with Velcro
fastening at the front.
In white or navy.
33in long £14.75 from
Eximious Ltd,
12a Maddox Street,
London W1R 9PL.
Monogramming £2.50
per initial. Post and
packing £1.25

Two new items from Mothercare which you might like to investigate. The first is a neat cupboard which can be fixed to the end of a cot, so that you have everything you need immediately to hand.

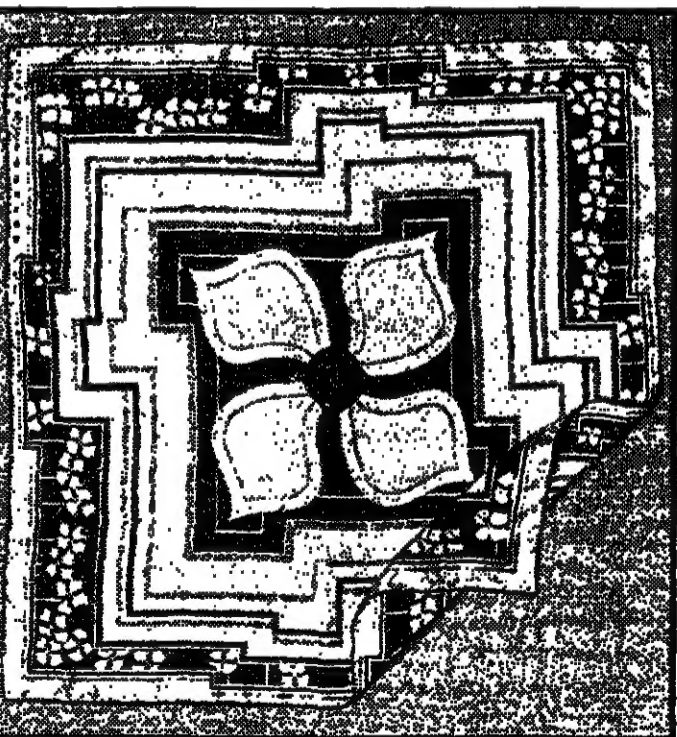
Designed to fit all standard panel-ended Mothercare cots and many similar cots, the cupboard has two side panels, two doors, and two shelves and is about 22in wide, 12in deep and 37in high. It comes in a white melamine finish to assemble yourself and costs £39.75.

The other good idea is a safety socket cover which fits into 13amp flat pin sockets when they are not in use, preventing exploring small fingers from poking into the holes. A pack of 6 costs 80p. Both items are now available at all branches of Mothercare.

Each season he introduces about a dozen new designs, all "custom built"—they could never be mistaken for a piece cut out of a length of fabric. He has designed special scarves for many organizations, hotels, clubs and events, including De Beers, Henley Royal Regatta, the Royal Thames Yacht Club. He exports to several countries, including Canada, Bermuda, Iceland, Australia and New Zealand and he also produces the best souvenir scarf of London I have seen—a montage of London's landmarks—St Paul's, Westminster Abbey, Nelson's Column, Big Ben—soft brown and grey line drawings on white silk.

The silk yarn comes from China but is woven and printed in Britain. Every scarf is hand rolled and there are two large squares, 36in at £15 and 30in at £12.50, a long scarf 9in wide at £7.50 and a mini scarf—a bit bigger than sweater scarves because they are too small to show the design when you tie them—at £5.

Richard Allan scarves are sold in many top department stores and I have never met a buyer who had the slightest difficulty in selling them against foreign imports. I have met one or two who were surprised that anything home-grown could be so popular. But then that's often the way—even with the Best of British.

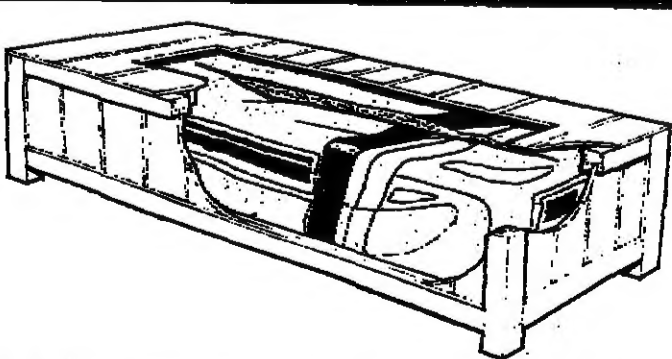


Pure silk scarf with a typical Richard Allan design of abstract flowers and irregular lines. In green, beige and cream; green, black and white; navy, pink and cream or black, red and white. 30in square £12.50. Selections of Richard Allan scarves are at Selfridges and Debenhams, Jones, Jenners of Edinburgh, Raxhams, Birmingham, and Country Casuals, Cheltenham.

A group of children whose hearts are kept beating by pacemakers will help to stage a spectacular flower festival at St Margaret's Church, Westminster, from May 15 to 17 between 10 am and 8 pm. All the proceeds will go to the British Heart Foundation to finance research to help other children with heart abnormalities.

In charge of the children, the festival and about a quarter of a million flowers will be Margaret Ferguson, who organized the Queen's Jubilee flower festival in Westminster Cathedral in which 64 nations took part. This year she will use a new red rose called Pace-maker raised specially for the foundation by Harkness.

The event will fascinate everyone interested in flowers and their arrangement. Tickets will be available at the door at £2 or in advance from the foundation at £1.50; pensioners half price, children under 12 free and a special rate for groups of 10 or over. Tickets and more information from the British Heart Foundation, 57 Gloucester Place, London W1. 01-437 4862.



If grow bags are on your list of "How did we ever manage without them?"—like Clingfilm and kitchen paper and foil and bin liners—but are not top of your aesthetic pops, then you may be glad to know of a useful cover-up. It is a hardwood framed box which is easily screwed together and is stained with a preservative white finish. It measures about 40 x 18 x 8in, large enough for the standard grow bag.

Called the Pamal grow bag container, it is as neat a way of hiding shapeless lumps of plastic as you are likely to find. It costs £24.50, plus £3.50 delivery, from Pamal, The Cottage, Sproxtton, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, LE14 4QS.

Most people buy sunglasses for one of two reasons, to look glamorous (women) and to keep the glare out when driving (men). Very few think of them as positive protection. Yet that is just what the newer developments in photochromic glass can provide.

When you buy prescription photochromic sunglasses you expect to pay a lot, but the range of makes, styles and prices in department stores is bewildering and it is impossible to tell from the appearance just why one pair costs £5 and another, similar pair £50. If they all go darker when the sun comes out, what is the point of breaking the bank?

The answer is that if appearance is all you care about there is no point in spending a lot, provided the lens is not actually distorted. But if you want to protect your eyes against injury you need to know a great deal more about the production of sunglasses than you will learn from the name tags.

There are three major companies in the western world who produce photochromic glass: Chance Pilkington of Britain, who make Reactolite Rapide, Corning in America, who make Photosun and Sunstive, and Desag in Germany, who make the glass used by Zeiss, among others.

The glass produced by these companies, however, is used in various ways by the makers of the actual sunglasses. A look inside the frames will be a guide to the quality of the final product.

A cheap pair, for instance, may say they are Reactolite Rapide on the tag but if the frames say they are made in Japan the actual glass will not be as tough as that in the pair made in England. This also applies to many European frames.

The glass in the British frames will be made to optical standards and is heat toughened to industrial levels of safety. The Japanese and European are "sagged", or heated until the lens curves. This produces distortion which has to be eliminated by making the glass extremely thin. In its turn the glass then has to be chemically roughened, but this protects the fingers of the people making the glasses rather than the eyes of the wearer.

Why bother about toughened glass? Jack Davey, senior lecturer in the department of optometry at London's City University, has no doubts about the advantages. He cites the example of a coach driver whose windshield collapsed on him. His face was lacerated but the lenses in his sunglasses were unbroken, although the frame snapped at the bridge.

"I don't feel happy about driving fast," says Mr Davey, "unless I have something protective in front of my eyes. Even the garden is a hazardous place and sun spectacles—not necessarily toughened ones—can prevent you from poking a cane, or a branch into your eye."

In some purely subjective

Mr Davey is particularly concerned about the misleading labels attached to sunglasses whose glass is nowhere near the British standard. Even the American standard of impact resistance is much lower. All Zeiss sunglasses are ground and polished to high ophthalmic standards, but some German glasses are labelled Class 1, which implies top quality, but is in fact measured by a standard which does not approach the British one.

"Top optical quality" is another misnomer and the British Standards committee, of which Mr Davey is a member, is now trying to decide on a standard which will give the sunglasses buyer who does not need a corrective lens the same ophthalmic quality as the prescription lens customer.

Apart from the safety factor, the other main consideration is whether you prefer your photochromic sunglasses to be slightly tinted in their unactivated state or whether you like them to be "fully clearing" like Reactolite Rapide, which starts clear and becomes dark grey or, in their newest form, dark brown.

The advantage to drivers is obvious, but if you are particularly sensitive to light, or if you are buying for glamour, then the very light glass, which looks like an ordinary spectacle out of the sun, may not appeal. Tinted glass is certainly more attractive and possibly more restful to sensitive eyes.

Right: A selection of photochromic sunglasses from £55 to £499.

- From the top.
- Zeiss Umbramatic with tinted glass and acetate frames, shading from brown to beige. £55 from Selfridges. Style 1078.
- Ray Ban's new green-tinted glass in a Unisex driving style with gilt metal frames. £41.95 from Selfridges. Style 907707.
- Other Ray Ban stockists include Kendal Milne, Manchester, and Raxhams, Birmingham.
- Samco's Reactolite Rapide Style 632-687 with pearl-to-beige acetate frames. £14.99 from a selection at branches of W. H. Smith, Burtons, Dorothy Perkins and Top Shop at Peter Robinson, Oxford Circus, London W1.
- Foster Grant's Sunstive glass with a gradient tint, shading from brown at the top to clear at the bottom with acetate frames in green and smoke grey. £12.95 from a selection at Woolworths, Boots and Debenhams. Style P1377.
- Boots Sunstive glass with a beige tint. Metal frames, made in Italy, in gilt, shading to blue-green on the outer rims. £7.99 from larger Boots branches. Style WWSL.
- Keynote sunglasses with beige tinted Sunstive glass in chrome frames, made in Italy. £4.99 from all Littlewoods.

If only I had known someone like Tessa Corr when I was doing my tail-and-trouble act as wife, mother, cook / hostess / crumb-but-not-bread winner I would not now be a shadow of my former self. Shadows, you understand, can be fat as well as thin and I achieved mine by compensatory eating.

Young wives today will wonder why I am making a fuss, as they all do several jobs at once, but in the North 20 years ago it simply was not done to have a job when one's husband could provide not only necessities but comforts. My boss's secretary even told me once that the only possible reason I could have for working was greed.

As nearly 50 per cent of married women now combine careers with homework the problem is no longer one of social acceptability but of logistics and that is why Tessa Corr's idea is such a good one. She cooks and sews to order.

This is not director's dining room catering but cooking in your own home, and she offers a variety of services. She will cook for an entire dinner party and deliver the food piping hot and leave you to serve, collecting the dishes the next day. Or she will cook, serve and wash up in your home. Or, for weddings, prepare everything, lay it out, do the flowers and clear away afterwards.

Her wedding cakes, stiff with fruit and laced with brandy, cost £20 and she also does children's birthday cakes, £3.50.

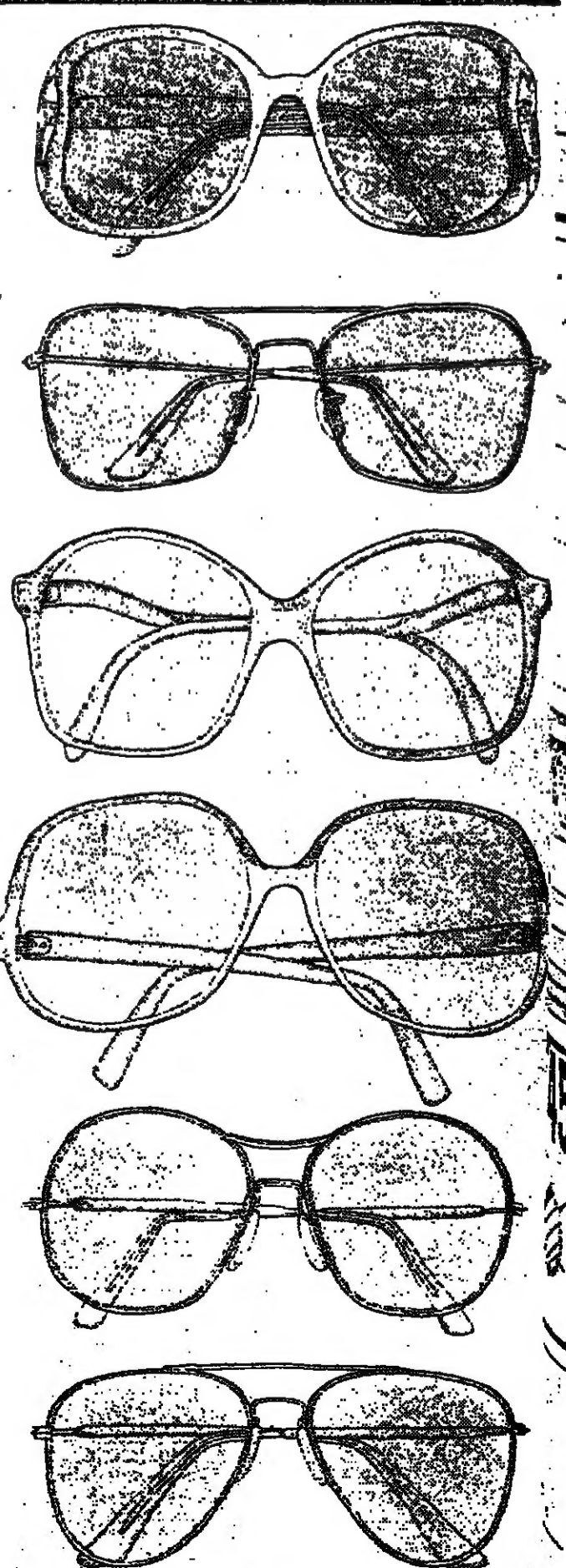
She does hampers for Asda has cooked in stately homes and will even give cooking lessons to groups of up to 10 in the clients' own kitchens. The cost for this is £800 per person for 12 lessons.

She does 'have set menu' but her speciality is that she is willing to be as flexible as you wish and instead of insisting on some larger caterers do, she uses her own materials and line and quilt, baby basket make bedspreads, from £3.40 and hand-lined curtains from £6.50 a width.

For more details of prices write to Tessa Corr, 73a Elm Road, Forest Hill, SE20 8JF, telephone 01-699 815. Distance is no object. As a professional she is willing to take off for New York or Japan a moment's notice. Had Down or Harrogate show present no problem at all.



Luggage has discovered the wheel in a big way. Grips as well as suitcases are now pull-along and this Jersey Wheelbag by Samsonite has a carrying and a towing grip. In PVC, approximately 19 x 12 x 22in in mid-brown, beige, deep brown or black, £50 from Harrods, D. H. Evans, and (brown only) Barfars of Kensington and Army and Navy, Victoria and Guildford. Also at Fenwick, Newcastle, James Howell, Cardiff, Dingles, Plymouth. Also in nylon at the same price.



Drawing by Wendy Jones

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PLEASE CHECK YOUR AD.

We make every effort to avoid errors in advertisements. Each one is carefully checked and proof read. When thousands of advertisements are handled each day mistakes do occur and we ask therefore that you check your ad and, if you spot an error, report it to the Classified Queries Department immediately by telephoning 01-537 1234 (Ext. 7100). We regret that we cannot be responsible for more than one ad in error. Incorrect insertion if you do not.

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"JESUS said: 'I will be with you until the end of the age.' In my name, I will give it to you." St. John 14:25.

BIRTHS

ALEXANDER—On April 28th, 1980 at Stirling to Ellen (nee McCullagh) and Michael, a son, Alexander John. A brother for Lucy Elizabeth.

BENSON—On May 7th, 1980 at St. George's Hospital, London to George and Catherine, a daughter, Catherine Louise.

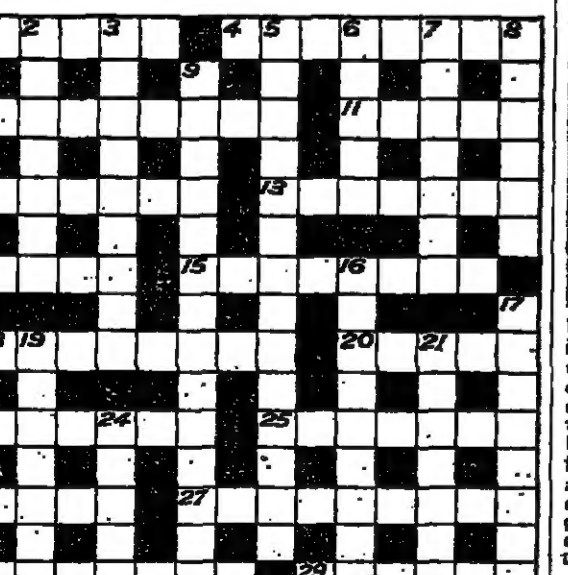
DIBDEN—On May 7th, 1980 at St. George's Hospital, London to David and Catherine, a son, David John.

ELKS—On May 5th, 1980 at St. George's Hospital, London to Peter and Catherine, a son, Peter John.

POWELL—On May 7th, 1980, in Richmond, Surrey to Alan and Catherine, a son, Alan John.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 15,220

This puzzle, used at the York regional final of the Cutty Sark/Times National Crossword, was solved within 20 minutes by 24 per cent of the finalists.



- ACROSS**
- Very keen to join gunmen's circle (5)
 - Army almost destroyed by one Russian ruler in India (8)
 - Reader marks them with one dash in writing (9)
 - Sea-beast turns awkward, warns Henry (7)
 - High spot for gardener's wife at (7)
 - Male fool into a poet (5)
 - Stops drunkard returning to others (8)
 - Some bird, exclamation mark (8)
 - Work among sheep or at a petrol pump (7)
 - Channel Islands' locust tree turned sort of acid (7)
 - Indian's complaint about this Roman (7)
 - "Do no wrong" the opposite advice he gives (5)
 - Malabar rat said to be a bow-legged bird (9)
 - We find one in Fay, a servant of Ali Baba (8)
 - Route by this different way (6)
- DOWN**
- How cows think (8)
 - Makes new classification of holiday homes (7)
 - Site offers all-round southern views (5, 4)
 - Whistler shows his fibre (5)
 - One kind of board de-up—its too much (7)
 - Sort of beer consumed at a discount (6)
 - Product of Stowe's Kentucky home (5, 4, 3)
 - With which to throw the churchwarden the opening word (5)
 - Maiden punnishes three times in combinations (8)
 - Official enquiring into the crime of lateness (7)
 - Tally's little bit of wind (7)
 - I'm about to remain in the same place (6)
 - Choice of keys one found in Buckingham Palace (5)

Solution of Puzzle No 15,219

DEATHS

COOPER—On May 9th, at St. George's Hospital, London to John and Mary, a son, John Michael.

HARRISON—On May 10th, at St. George's Hospital, London to John and Mary, a son, John Michael.

MILLER—On May 11th, at St. George's Hospital, London to John and Mary, a son, John Michael.

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MARRIAGES

DOUGLAS & THOMPSON—At the Church of St. George, London, on May 10th, 1980, to Douglas and Mary, a son, Douglas John.

FRANCIS & SMITH—At the Church of St. George, London, on May 11th, 1980, to Francis and Mary, a son, Francis John.

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IN MEMORIAM

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PERSONAL COLUMNS

ALSO ON PAGE 5

UK HOLIDAYS

JUNE HOLIDAYS ON EDGE OF EXMOOR
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Charming old town and harbor, Wyomouth is a beautiful area of the West Country, with a coastline of cliffs and a high moorland. Wyomouth is a beautiful area of the West Country, with a coastline of cliffs and a high moorland. Wyomouth is a beautiful area of the West Country, with a coastline of cliffs and a high moorland.

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PERSONAL COLUMNS

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UK HOLIDAYS

JUNE HOLIDAYS ON